

THE
French Rogue :
OR, THE
L I F E
OF
Monsieur *RAGOUÉ*
de Versailles

CONTAINING

His Parentage, Monstrous Birth, Early Rogueries, pleasant and witty Pranks, not only in *France*, but in divers other Countries. With the Strange and Wonderful Plots, Projects, Policies and Stratagems, by which he Contrived, Managed and Brought about his Villanies, and escaped many Dangers, and more particularly the Prank he played with the *French KING*, &c. All very Comical and Delightful.

With large ADDITIONS not in any former Impression.

Done from the Original by J. S.

LONDON: Printed for M. Baddington, at the Golden-Ball in Duck-Lane, 1720.

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T O T H E

R E A D E R

IN this small Book you will find such delightful Entertainment, as none of this Kind has yet afforded; it is dressed, the better to please, in the modish Fashions of France; some Years since so greatly in Request, that few Ladies or Sparks found themselves easie and well done, without a Taylor that had crossed the Water to take a Survey of that fantastical Court, and bring over Models of the newest Bravery in vogue. To be brief, If you are desirous to divert your self with what may contribute to Mirth, and banish melancholy Thoughts, or dive into the Depth of ingenious Roguery, here you may see your Wishes answered at a small Expence, in so curious and pleasing a Style of Prose, interwoven with Poetry, that the like, we dare affirm, never came to your Hands. Take it

TO the READER.

then, as it is, and when you have ser-
perused it (but not till then) judge,
speak as you find, and no doubt you will
clude that you never met with a better
to remove a Fit of the Spleen. And so
sing through this little Porch into a fair
large House, I leave you to take its Dim-
ons at Leisure,

And remain,

Your very humble Servant

J.

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The Ingenious A U T H O R
O F T H E
French Rogue.

READER,

IN this no common Rogue you find,
It is a French One, (pray that Notion mind)
One who more Cunning than the rest has been,
Out-witting all that ever yet were seen:
French Tricks you know, are for Invention rare,
Once covered like Fashions, or their Ware.
No Modes, but French would please some Years
ago,
So that their Vice became a Fashion too.
If a French Venus in hot Kindness fir'd
Our Gallants, they ev'n the Disease admir'd,
And hugg'd her in their Arms, as she had been
The only Cause to make them Gentlemen.
All Portugal, Spain, Italy, and Rhine
Can't please some Palates, oh, 't must be French
Wine;
Or if it be not so, give it the Name,
It passes current as it were the same.

No Fans, nor Toys, but theirs, Miss will
receive;

And for a French Dog, What won't Madam
give?

Stor'd with a Breed of Puppies of this Strain,
Will a half-broken Merchant rise again.

Then for their Paintings, nothing can come ni
Their curious Touches that can please the Eye;

A Lady's Chambers will catch cold without 'em

As for French Watches, they are still about 'em

French Plays and Novels too, are lik'd the best

And French Translating late much in request

Put but an Author of that Country's Name

Its Title-Page it gives ev'n Nonsense Fame.

And now since these, and more, are so in vogue

We pray, among the rest, accept their Rogue,

On the Impartial Commendation;

Of your Humble Servant,

J. S.

The French Rogue, &c.

CHAP. I.

An Exact and Pleasant Relation of his Parentage; early and monstrous Birth, being born with Hair and Teeth, five Months after his Mother was marry'd; and of the Suspicion of his Legitimacy. The Discourse of the Gossips. A Story of a Barley Child. And what else materially happen'd on this Introductory Occasion.

AS for my Birth, it may be term'd *Preternatural*, beyond the common Course of Nature, or rather, somewhat monstrous, as in the Sequel shall demonstrate; and great Disputes rose about my Legitimation.

As for my Parentage, the Father that owned me, was one *Monsieur Ragoue de Versailles*, who had a little Country Seat near to that aspiring Palace, whose State-ness has created so much Wonder and Commendation. He had spent his younger years in Amours and Intrigues with the fair Sex, though very unfortunate in his

Adventures of Knight-Errantry, as having squandred away his Patrimony in relieving distressed Damsels; so that being doubly destitute of Money and Friends, he took him to his last Shift; which was, to leave the soft Tents of *Venus*, and enter into those of *Mars*. But the Armies being at that time in Quarters, he had leisure to repair to his own Mansion; which having been roughly used by the surly Wind who had cuffed off a great part of its Covering, was like that wherein Pope Urban a Fisherman's Son, was born, and of which in his Pontifical Pride, he used scoffing to make mention saying, He came from an Illustrious House; for by reason of the Scarcity of Money to repair it, the Sun darted in his glorious Rays at a great many more Places than the Windows.

As for his Diet, which otherwise might have been near as slender as that of a Chameleon's, he frequently resorted to the House of *Villezaro*y at *Versailles*, which was join'd to the Royal Palace, who liberally dispens'd his Bounty to all that appeared any thing like Gentlemen, by keeping a Table on purpose to entertain them.

Here, as the lucky Stars would have it, he became acquainted, and was desperately smitten with the irresistible Glances of my fair Mother's Sparkling Eyes. She being an intriguing Baggage, soon perceived by his steady and eager gazing on her, and

The Life of Monsieur Ragoue. 3

the Sighs that sometimes would unpremeditatedly escape the Prison of his Bosom, yet as she had served many others, she seemed ignorant of his Passion, and careless of the officious Services he render'd her, as he found Occasion to tender 'em in the most obliging manner, when he thought he might best nick the critical Minute of gaining her Affections.

Now, some inquisitive Coxcomb or other may be desirous to know her Extract and Quality: Wherefore, not to leave this Particular undiscussed, I shall (as far as I learned from her self, which, I believe, was all she knew) clear the Point and give him Satisfaction.

Though she had been well educated, her Birth was but mean, holding her Rank among the Taylor's Daughters of Orleans, the Place where she sucked in her first Air; and was at twelve years old left to shift for her self, her Parents then stepping into the other World, and leaving her as much of this World as by her Industry and Ingenuity she could procure of it, for a Portion, or Subsistence. She was indeed, of a very pregnant or sagacious Wit and Understanding, quick of Apprehension, and had a Memory very tenacious; so that having trudged on foot back to Versailles, in a pretty janty Garb, she soon got into Service, at first, to tend a Lady's Child, and then to be Lawndry Maid to fair Lu-

cinda

cinda, a Marquess's Daughter ; and so perfectly, in little time, learned the Art of Wheedling and Flattery; which she carried on so smoothly, that many were insensibly drawn into a good liking of her, at her facetious way of Discourse and Carriage; and so infascinated at length they were, that they found themselves uneasy without her Company and Conversation, and therefore much coveted it.

She was not slow in perceiving the Ascendant she had over them upon this Account, and resolved to turn it to her Advantage. She had frequent Bribes from their amorous Admirers, to introduce them, deliver Letters, or plead their Love-sick Causes or Complaints to the charming fair Ones; which she did in so opportune and moving a time and manner, that Success usually attended her Endeavours. She often, on the other hand, managed the Ladies' Intrigues, and was conscious of their stolen Pleasures. She was (it being a thing very rarely found in the Sex) excellent at sealing up a Secret from the Eyes and Ears of babbling Fame; imprisoning what they intrusted her with, as securely in her Bosom as a Silk-worm housed in a strong Box; and made it part of her Business to secure their Honours and Reputations, to provide them Country Retirements, and faithful Nurses, when Nature compelled them to disburthen the Products of their

stolen

The Life of Monsieur Ragoue. 5

er. In Pleasures; excusing their Absence, if
of inquiry was made, by informing the Inqui-
ar. ive, That my young Lady was gone to
in. As some Days with her Country Relati-
ners, at their rural Mansions; and some-
e; nes she was sick, and could not admit of
re, sitants; carrying it so demurely and se-
th. ious in all her Expressions, that no Ground
nd. As left to surmize: She told 'em an *A-*
s Fable for a Veracity. But being young
A. and sprightly, full of youthful Blood, gay
Ac. and witty, she thought her Beauty suffer'd
Ad. ury, not to be enjoyed as well as others;;
om. and thereupon set her Springes, and threw
uce. at her Baits and Allurements for Wood-
ve. cks and Gudgeons, where she perceived
ing. y Game, or Tendency to Sport or Pro-
une. ; and many she took, to her great Ad-
uc. vantage; among the rest, a Marquess's
She. on; who (not to be tedious with you)
the. nding, as I suppose, and as she never
of. without Blushes deny'd, that he had given
g. a. er so much Lambswool, that her Belly
cel. began to swell; upon Notice, my Father.
and. as fallen in Love with her, for his own
hat. eputation (being then marry'd to a beau-
her. ful Lady) made up the Match, and gave
ong. hem a considerable Farm to begin the
a. to. World, as I may say, a-new with. My Fa-
to. ner, who had been a long time under the
and. gripes of Necessity, was overjoy'd, that
lled. at last, as he thought, some propitious Star
neir. ad smiled on him, or that he had now
old. found

found his good Angel, and mightily hug-
ged himself in the little Revival of his For-
tune, she having over and above brought
him 400 Crowns, gotten in Service, and
the fore-mentioned intriguing Business.

They lived very happily together, in
ways Billing and Cooing like two Turtles
till at the end of five Months, being in
Bed with her, all on a sudden she was
taken with a violent Pain, the true Cause
which she could no longer dissemble, she
taking him about the Neck, almost stifling
him with Kisses, and bedewing his Cheeks
with Tears, intreated him to rise and call
a Midwife. At this he started, and man-
ifested his Resentments and Discontent be-
tween his Teeth; but finding that it was
but too true, and that there was now no
other Remedy, out he jumps, and as secretly
as he could, brought in the good Woman
man at the Back-door, as knowing what
was done, was past preventing; and to
blow his Horn, would but disturb his
Neighbours, at such an unseasonable hour.
My Mother was active and lively; and in
a short space, by the Help of the Gen-
tlemen Drawer, I crept thorough the nar-
row Passage of Nativity, into the World
having, contrary to the usual Birth of
other Children, indifferent long Hair on
my Head; and when one of the Women
went to clap me to her Breast, not sus-
pecting any Danger, the rest of the Gen-
tlemen

thought

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thought he had been falling in Labour too, and expected more Hot-Suppings; for she bore out in a piteous manner, and would have thrown me from her Arms, but that like a Wolf, I hung too fast by the Teeth at her Nipple, and made a crimson trickling descend her panting Hill of warm Snow; which presag'd what bloody work I should make before I had done with the World. With much ado, and the help of the Midwife's Bodkin, they made me quit my hold; and all of them wondered to see my Phangs so long and sharp, every one spending a Verdict on me, as their Fancies and Opinions led them, as to what these unusual Prodomo's might fore-run or signifie, in the whole Series of my Life.

By this Time, the Weather being cold, my Father advertised of his Spouses safe Delivery, adventured into the Chamber wrap'd in his Cloak, walking up and down in querpo, declaring by his furious Motion and sullen Looks, he was much troubled at what had happened; which he feared would reflect upon him; and redound to his Disgrace and Affront. My Mother called often to him, with abundance of honey Words, as my Dear, my Bird, my Chuck, &c. why are you so strange to me at this Time; I prithee Love, draw nearer, and kiss me. But all would not do, he answered her never a Word but still kept his Motion, with a wrinkle

Forehead

Fore-head, and bended Brows. The good Women seeing this, and not being ignorant of the Cause of his Disturbance, when another Case it would have been a Comfort and Delight to him, thinking to put him out of his Dumps, carried me, by this Time finely dressed, and smiling said, Pray, Monsieur, turn about, and look upon your hopeful Off-spring; your very Picture, I protest and vow: Oh, sweet Babe! Look here! Look here; it's Father's own Nose, Mouth, Chin, and every Thing so like you! — A pox! (replied he, muttering in a surly Tone) I know not but it may be like the Father, but then (fetching a deep Sigh, continued he) it can't be like me. — Why so? (says Mother Mid-night, who bore up briskly to him, and wanting her Front Teeth, sputter'd in his Face, through her Earnestness of speaking. — What! said he, a Five Months Child, so large and lusty, and mine! Tell me no more on't (biting his Nails it can never, never be, (and then stamp and fretted) — Not he! Not he! replied she hastily, (still pursuing him as he walked about), Upon my corporal Honesty, protest it may be, and has been a hundred times, to my Knowledge; therefore, pray Sir, have but Patience to hear me, and I'll soon convince you. Ay! As how? As how? (said he, beginning to lessen his Anger, and listen to her.) — Why (said she) Don't you see, Wheat is sowed in September, and

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it is but ripe in *August* ? And, Don't
every one that knows any thing of Country
fairs, see, that Barley sow'd in the be-
ginning of *March*, is ripe as soon, or sooner ;
ay, here's Five Months difference in the
rain, and this pretty Babe here, wants but
your : Dod a blest it, and shave it, this is a
Barley Child, take my Word for't ; and as
the next, you need not doubt but it will
be a Wheat Child ; and therefore, pray Sir,
set your Heart at rest, and be contented, and
thankful for what God has sent you.

This a little clear'd up the angry Cloud
that hung on his Brow, threatening a Storm ;
though he was not so ignorant, as alto-
gether to credit the old Gypsey, yet finding
he must acquiesce, and the sooner the bet-
ter, he gave my Mother a reconciling Buss, or
two, who crowded two Loud'ors into his
hand ; with which, going to the next Ta-
vern, he washed away Sorrow from his
heart in good Company.

C H A P. II.

How he was admired for his large Size and Come-
liness, in his Infancy. How a great Lady seeing
him in the Streets, took a Fancy to him, had
him under her Tuition, by the Consent of his Pa-
rents ; put him to School, and of many things
that befel him there, in the Juvenile Progress of
his Learning, and little Rogueries.

Being

BEing tumbled into the World in manner before recited, without (ever heard on) any Blazing Stars, or prodigies fore-running or attending my Birth. I was brought up by Hand: for a Suckling I dreaded my sharp Phangs, as much as a Shipwreck'd Salior, floating on the Waves towards some friendly Shore, do's the minding of a Shark; or the *Egyptians* near Nile, of an Allegator. As I was of an extraordinary Bigness, when I thrust my Head out of my Natures dark Working Room, being largely cramm'd by my tender and indulgent Mother, I grew a pace, and came to my Language and Speech to Admiration, before Children that had been born a great many Months before me did, or were expected to do. That many Persons made it their Business to pretend sham Errands to our House, on no other purpose than to see me: and the Ladies took a singular pleasure in doubling, kissing me, and feeling my Cock; which in my fancy, promised what it has since performed to the Satisfaction of the Fair Sex.

I no sooner was so fledg'd, that I could run about without a Rowler, or Lead strings; but a great Lady passing by the Gate in her Coach, eying me narrowly, mightily taken with my Physiognomy, in a pretty manner of Tattling to my diminutive Play-Fellows; who calling me to her, almost smothering me with Kisses, demanded whose pretty Boy I was? Nor could

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forbear smiling, when instead of an Answer to her Demand, seeing her delicate white Breasts, meander'd with Azure Veins, rendering them very charming and tempting to my Eyes, I fell not only to nuzzling, but stroking and playing with them: At last, she got out of me, who my Father and Mother were; and understood, by my pointing to his House, the Place of their Abode. It seems this beautiful Creature was, by her own ambitious Inclination to Honour, and the Perswasion of her Parents, married to an old fumbling Count, with whom she had lived five Years without any Child, or hopes of having one by him; and therefore to upbraid his Impotency, or stir him up, if possible, to a more active Vigour, or frequenter Repetition of the Lesson she lov'd, she was desirous to have me to set as a Pattern before his Eyes, und thereupon order'd her gaudy glittering four Wheeled Movement to drive nearer to our Door.

My Father and Mother happening to be at Home, wondered what great Visitant this might be; but more, when they saw her hugging their hopeful Issue in her Arms: They accosted her with what Compliments on a sudden bolted into their Heads; and she return'd them suitable Civilities: but she came to start the Question, of parting with me, and what great Things she would do for me, my Mother, whose Darling I was, (though by this time she had another Son) seem'd

seem'd very averse to it: But my Father who seldom looked on me with pleasing Eyes, it still running his Mind, that I was none of his Begetting, was more attentive to her Discourse; and prevail'd with my Mother that within ten Days I should be sent to her Ladyship; she, by reason of her great Quality, not being known to either of them: And so having given me a fervent Kiss or two, and clapping a small Necklace of Pearl, as an earnest of her Kindness about my Neck, she took her leave, highly satisfy'd in this Adventure.

She was no sooner gone, but my Mother dropping some Tears, repented her Consent; and labour'd, by many Arguments and Perswasions, to have revok'd and nullify'd it: But my Father, more willing to be pleas'd of me, perswaded her to acquiesce in a Separation that promised so much, not only to mine, but as he strongly urg'd, the advancement of our Family; and accordingly I was sent, under the safe Conduct of *Margery* our Maid; and fanc'd I became, as it were, the adopted Son of *Pharaoh's* Daughter.

The old Lord, I perceiv'd at my first arrival, was a little doubtful whether the young Lady had told him the truth; or that being sensible of his Inabilities, it might be her own Off-spring by some lusty Lover upon his Absence on an Embassie, at that time he fancied I might be made and brought

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into the World. But upon a sober Enquiry,
and the coming of my Mother to visit me,
his blew over, and he found himself oblig'd,
Honour, to crave Madam's Pardon for his
just Suspicion ; and I was splendidly cloa-
ed, entertain'd and attended ; and my pretty
discourse, and little Apish Tricks, diverted
my Lady in her Fits of Melancholy, more than
a Buffoon, or Monkey : and for my bet-
ter Accomplishment, being arriv'd at my
ninth Year, without many other remarka-
ble Transactions of my Life, that no Qua-
fications might be wanting in me worthy
acquiring, and for the Improvement of
Education, I was put under the Tuition of
a famous Pedagogue or School-Master, who
admitted no Correction for the Benefit or Fur-
therance of Instruction.

I learned to read and write *French* pretty
tolerably the first Year ; and by conversing
with an *Italian* Youth, I pretty well under-
stood that Language ; but the next Year,
being put to the dull Grammatical Methods
and Rules of Scholastical Education, it
seem'd tiresome to me, my magnanimous Spi-
rit being far by Nature exalted above it ;
yet having with great difficulty, in another
perambulation of the Sun through the
twelve Signs of the *Zodiack*, crowded my
self into the Company of Adverbs, Prepo-
sitions and Interjections, &c. with which I
did so kick, cuff and scuffle, that notwithstand-
ing my Master gave all possible Assistance to
his

his Disciple, yet he found the Opponents too crabbed to be overcome; which unhappy Contests frequently ended in the most cruel Flagellations, that made me the more stubborn and regardless, though he plough'd and furrow'd my tender Buttocks, till they carried the Marks and Characters of all Languages on them. Shame, and Desire of Revenge, stopt my Complaints, or my good-natur'd Lady would not have suffer'd me to have undergone such Severities: which Revenge, as sweet to me as Eggs and Muscadine, I accomplish'd before I intended to take my Farewell, as will appear in the next Chapter.

C H A P. III.

Of his Master's Severity towards him, by reason of his neglecting his Learning, and following his Sports, to the outwitting and defrauding his Companions: And how, by divers Comical Tricks and Intrigues, he pursu'd his Revenge, caused his Mistress to run away with one of the Scholars, and all the Money and Plate which breaks his Masters Heart and so he return'd to his Lady.

TO divert the Trouble my Master's Severity put me into, I bent my study upon all manner of boyish Recreations, and became very expert therein, be-
you

The Life of Monsieur Ragoue. 15

and the rest of my Companions, at Tip-Cricket, Span-Farthing, Skittle-Pins, Juggles, Wrestling, and the like; by which I and above the Allowance I had from my Lady, whom rarely I went to visit, but I procured a Crown into my Hand at part-I gain'd considerably in Money and Experience; and finding my old Pedagogue detestous, I fell into a dexterous way to buy my Faults with Presents of curious Toys, &c. and sometimes, he being none of the richest or best Husbands, with Money I succeeded to have found in the streets; which charmed him, that much of my usual punishment was abated, though my Learning made no better Progress; yet I heartily resenting how scurvily he had used me, the Desire of Revenge still run in my mind, and I was resolv'd, in some measure to avenge myself, to cry Quits with him at part-I cast in my Mind various ways how to get it about: sometimes one Project came into my mind, and then another jostled it out of my way; some seemed easie to be accomplished, others presented themselves in very difficult Idea's, full of Hazzard and Danger, and very difficult to be brought about, and I was to come off with safety; insomuch, that I was very quick of Invention, especially of Mischief, which my School-fellows had frequently experienc'd, to their great art and Loss: yet here, I confess, I was at

at a plunge; but not long after, a lucky, or unlucky Hit (call which you please) came into my Noddle, though somewhat, as yet undigested, and not well shapen, I had convers'd the oldest of our Scholars, who had arriv'd at nineteen Years of Age, and was substituted by my Master, sometimes, as a kind of an Usher to supply his Place when he had a mind to be among his talking Companions, and by his Compliments had many times caused me a smarting, I have a learning Inclination towards my Mistress, who being sprightly and gay, in her youthful Blood, and before, his Chambermaid, had married the Dotard for a more certain and regular Subsistence, and large Command, and that she had not declined the Civilities the young Armorist omitted on occasion to tender her. I concluded, upon these Observations there must be something more than ordinary in the Winding up to the bottom, and therefore became a more intent and diligent Spy upon their Actions, critically marking their Glances, Smiles and Winks, and scrutenizing the nicest Symbols of Love, till I verily believed my Master was very near, if not already enter'd the Kingdom of Cuckoldom; then I began to contrive Gins and Snares to catch him in the uneasie and dangerous Trap of Jealousie; and by degrees, lead him into great Mishaps and Perturbations, if possible.

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One Evening, my Mistress feigned her
self indispos'd, and would needs go to Bed
sooner than ordinary; which made me
more sedulous in putting my self on the
watch for a further Discovery; and there-
upon, sneaking up before her, as soft as if I
had trod upon Eggs, I was soon concealed
behind the Arras. She was scarcely enter'd,
and in a posture charming enough to re-
ceive her Lover, but I heard one Trip up
stairs, and give a gentle rap or two at the
door. Upon this she jump'd out of Bed, and
gave admittance to the Party I had all along
expected to be more welcome to her Arms
than my Master. Having almost stifled him
with Kisses, and whispered many expressions
to his Ear; for it seems, being one of
Cupid's Novices, he was somewhat bashful in
countering these Enjoyments, he quickly
stript, and his lovely *Venus* as soon infold-
ed him in her Arms, and so they began a
tizens galloping pace at his first setting
out; but after frequent Repetitions, tired and
satiated with sweet Enjoyments, after some
pretty Murmurings, and Love-toying, so
long a silence ensued, that I concluded them
asleep; and so intending to steal away un-
discover'd, and send up my Master, I crept
from 'em as silent as a Ghost: but as I was
going out, 'spying a Glew-Pot over a glim-
mering Fire in the Chimney, left there by
the forgetfulness of the Joyner, who had been
mending the disjointed Frame of a great

Looking-Glass that stood in the Room, another Whim came into my Head; for perceiving their Opticks fast closed, I with a gentle Hand stroak'd them over with the glutinous Materials; and leaving them in that Condition, I lock'd the Door on the outside and crept down Stairs as softly as I ascended. I thought indeed to have found old Rastignac in his Study, where sometimes he would go to sit up late; but peeping through the Key-hole, and perceiving no Light, and hearing that snoring he usually made if he fell asleep, and suffer'd his Candle to burn out, I concluded he was not there; but when coming into the Kitchen, I heard the Cook-Maid say, I must go lay the Key for my Master; for he's a sucking at the Tavern among the old Gang, and I believe will not come home till his usual Hour Twelve. This gave large scope to my invention, and pretending to go to Bed as the rest did, I however crept down to prepare for his Reception, when he should enter. In the first place, I drew the Trap-door in an Entry he was to pass made for the Conveniency of emptying and cleansing the Bog-house, which run under it, and then planted my self behind the outward Door, with a frightful sort of Vizard tied over my Face, with a Cap to which a Pair of Horns were fastened, that we sometimes us'd in our private Maquerading; and lest my Cloaths should be known

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known, I had stript over my Shoulders an old cast black Crape Petiecoat; and having a small Rocket in my Breeches, the remainder of the last publick Fire-work Entertainment, with my Pocket Tinder-box I struck fire, and tinded my Match.

Being thus accouter'd, he came home much sucky, or addle Pated: at length he open'd it, yet advanced but a few steps e're he blunder'd over me, who had laid my self as a Stumbling-block in his way, and miserably broke his Face against the Pavement; but before he had time to make any noise, he had got up and fired my Rocket; by the sight of which unexpected fuzee, lifting up his batter'd Forehead, and seeing my dreadful Form, concluded me to be no other than the first-begotten of *Bezebub*, come to punish him for his sins of the Bottle; upon which bolting up at a leap, Fear adding Wings to his Feet, he fled, crying out, *The Devil! The Devil! Help! Help! He has me! He has me! He has me!* whilst I pursued with a Fire-drake at his Tail, crying with a hollow and hoarse Voice, thro' a Kecks, *Thou art mine, Thou art mine; and with me you shall go to the Shades below.*

I had scarce ended these Words, but the Trap took him, and down he plung'd into the Filth, over Head and Ears; when throwing the unspent part of my Rocket, which till then I held in my Hand, after him, I shut down the Door upon him, and was

B 2 got

got to my Chamber just as it gave the Bounce: which being just above the Place I could hear him hollow out hideously, *I'm in Hell! I'm in Hell! Oh, Mercy! Mercy! Mercy!* Which doleful Noise alarm'd the nearest of the Servants, and they roused the others; and, to be brief, being directed where he was by the Noise he continually made they lifted up the Pit-fall, and drew him out like another *Joseph*, in a miserable stinking Condition, almost senseless, thro' Fear and Stench, wondring how possibly, he could come there, the Door being shut close down, but when they had given him some Spirit to revive him, he frightfully looking about with a brupt Stammerings and Hesitation, assur'd them, That a monstrous stumfooted Devil, in a horrid Shape, vomiting Flames of Fire, had seiz'd him just as he enter'd the Door, and was carrying him that way, as he believed, to his Infernal Region; but, upon saying an *Ave-Maria* the Dæmon quitted his hold, and vanished in a Clap of Thunder, that had sing'd his Whiskers.

His Fear being a little dissipated, the Place where he was in, made not only himself, but all that were about him, uneasy, till they had put him into a Bucking-Tub under the Pump, and scrub'd him into somewhat more sweet and cleanly Condition. While this was doing, and I not perceiv'ing my Mistress and her Lover all this while to attempt

The Life of Monsieur Ragoue. 21

th solv'd, now I had begun, to go through
latch with my Roguery; and therefore, ta-
ing and End of Candle that stood by me, I
t brought it by my Tinder Box, put it in a dark
anthorn, and creeping undiscover'd near
ed their Apartment, set an old tatter'd Map
the World, pasted on Canvass, and hang-
g in the Staircase, on fire; and being sure,
his at before it could do any harm, it would
t discover'd by the blazing Light, and so
Fe including I had made Fire-works enough,
coupt to Bed again; which I had no sooner
own me, but my Ears were saluted with the
pirioise of *Fire! Fire!* and could hear my old
g after roar out in his Bucking-Tub, *He's*
esit me again! *He's come again; and will have*
um! *I see his Sancer-Eyes glaring thro' the*
nitin sament! and as a Charm against the sup-
as sed Fury, mumbl'd over divers Passages in
his e Rosary, and rattl'd his Beads.

The Noise of the Firealarm'd the Watch,
d they came thundring at the Outer-door;
nif had the sooner Admittance, because
d those of the Servants, who, perhaps did not
ppose it to be the Devil, nor his Dam,
e Pency'd there might be Thieves in the
f, house. The Night-Governour no sooner
d the vanc'd with his guard of Bilbo-blades,
er t my Master took a little Courage, as
what pposing now, having Authority on his side,
Whiey were strong enough to scuffle with *Lu-*
ng n er himself, should he make any further
to sttempt or disturbance; but perceiving his

dear Wife had not appear'd during all this Noise, Hurry and Confusion, he fell into such sad Apprehensions, that Demigorgon might have catcht her napping, and taken her for him, or at least, some other Mischief might have befall'n her, and so flouncing out of his Tub (like *Lazarillo de Tormes*, in his Escape, when he was taken and shew'd for a monstrous Sea-Fish) he pray'd the Man of Authority, and his Janizary Tribe, to go with him to the Chamber of his Sweeting; yet Fear so shook him, that he strain'd Courtessie to make them the Front, that he might have the Honour to be in the Front, if they should have occasion to face about.

Their Leaden heel'd trampling up Stairs and a bounce or two at the Door, made the two Lovers start out of their sweet and pleasant Dreams; and just as the Door was opened, (for the Key was still on the outside) they leaped out of Bed in their Shifts and not being able to see, their Eyes being so fast glew'd, but hearing a great number of Voices, verily suppos'd them Thieves and Murderers, who had kill'd the rest of the Family; and were come to dispatch them last; wherefore, running skreaming about the Room, as supposing themselves in the dark, tho' several Lights were brought in seeking for Shelter, they tumbled headlong over the Stools and Chairs, which had set out of Rank for some such Purpose so that my Mistresses's delicate white But

He turn'd up, and she produc'd her Ace of
Trumps for the Highest, by rolling over ;
Whilst her young Amorist being hindmost,
and taking his turn at tumbling, pitch'd di-
rectly over a Chair, with his Head between
her Haunches.

Those that saw them at these Vagaries,
and they not hearkning to what they said,
took them to be a couple of distracted Per-
sons; till my Master coming in, and put-
ting on his Spectacles, perceiv'd how the
Game had gone, and like a good natur'd
Husband, though it fretted his Gall, to be
privately injur'd, and publickly disgrac'd,
attempted to cover his dear Wife's naked Beau-
ty, which lay too temptingly expos'd to vul-
gar Eyes, by carrying her into Bed, and
throwing the Cloaths over her. Hearing
her Husband's Voice, she was a little com-
morted, as knowing now this was not the
last Hour she had to live, nor the last Time
she had to serve him so, but with hopes of
better luck than to be so basely betray'd in-
to a Disgrace, by over Drowsiness; yet she
wond'ring, she knew not how his Scholar, (who
was all this while upon his Knees begging
mercy and Forgiveness) came into her Cham-
ber, or how their Eyes came to be shut up,
unless it was by Witchcraft: Which the
old indulgent Coxcomb comparing with
what had befall'n himself, either that he be-
lieved it, or that he feign'd he did so, to
hide the Shame, and hinder these Passages,

much as he could, from being made public concluded, at then it was so; and dismissing the Watch with Money and Thanks, and intreating them not to scatter any Words or any Words abroad of what they had heard and seen. But they were no Privy-Counsellors; for in a short time all the neighbouring Places rung of these Adventures.

Warm Milk was immediately brought to unseal the Eyes of these blinded Lovers which, with much rubbing, struggling and pain, open'd their Opticks (like our first Parents, in Paradise, when fallen, to blush the more at what they had offended in.) Master suppressing his Anger, said no more of it that Night, but order'd the young Gamester to his Bed, and went himself to another, as not being yet sweetned and air'd sufficiently to come between my Mistress Arms, though she Complimentally desired it; but with what Sincerity, you may imagine.

Early in the Morning he came to his Spouse, having broke his Rest by a thousand Fancies and Imaginations running all Night in Head, labour'd to get out of her the Truth of the Matter, in Generals or Particulars: But she being a cunning Baggage and having a great Ascendant over his Credulity, persisted that it was done by Witchcraft; and she knew no more how it otherwise came about, than the Man in the Moon. Resolving not to give it over so, he goes to

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The Youngster, and beginning to examine
him, bid him freely confess as he hoped for
Pardon; for his Mistress had declared, That
when he crept to Bed to her, she was de-
ceiv'd, and knew not but it was him her
husband. The Noddy thinking this to be
true, and fearing a Rape at least, would be
true to his Charge, fell on his Knees, and
declar'd, his Mistress tempted him to these
enjoyments, by urging the Impotency of her
husband, and that this was not the first by
the hundred times. At this my old Master
being enraged, as supposing him to be the
contriver of the Mischiefs that had befall'n
himself, drags him into the School, calls in
this Man; and having tied our young Cuck-
bird-maker Hand and Foot cross a Table,
immediately lock'd up his Wife, to prevent
her Rescue; and he fell to cooling his Cou-
rage, at such a thrashing rate, on his But-
tocks, that after the tiring himself, and
the Expence of two Brooms, he left such
bloody Remembrances, as neither *Bridewell*,
nor the Carts-Tail ever produc'd.

My Mistress hearing the miserable Out-
cry her distressed Gallant made, at last ven-
gered out at the Window by the Sheets ti-
ed together, and came and unbound him,
being ready to swoon away at so pitious a
sight: And (to be brief) soon after they so-
botted, that he going away in Discontent,
he robb'd my Master of all his Money, Plate,
and richest Things, and followed her abler

Gamester to Places of freer Enjoyment : I
 somuch that Grief soon after cast my Peda-
 gogue into a Fever, and that cast him into
 the Grave, and gave me the Revenge and
 Liberty with as fine a Come-off as I could
 have wished, and much better than I could
 reasonably have expected, though, I could
 have been contented my old Master had had
 had more Wit than to dwindl'd into the
 other World upon so slight Occasion ; yet
 have ever made it my Observations, That
 such as tyrannize over prostrate Creatures
 have neither Hearts nor Courage to face
 sustain Crosses or Afflictions, when they
 press hard upon themselves.

*He that will triumph o'er a Wretch distress'd,
 Stinks lowest, when by Misery oppress'd :
 The Noble and the Brave, who scorn to tread
 On Worms, when Fortune frowns, hold up their Heads
 And dare the threatening Storm, as free from Wrong
 That croud on guilty Minds in fearful throngs :
 But here, I must confess, was no such Guilt ;
 My Buttocks smarted, without much Blood spilt ;
 Yet I too rash Revenge sheath'd to the Hilt :
 Ruin'd a Family at one bold Stroke,
 For one's damn'd Whim, who durst my Rage prove
 So have I heard, a Comet, from his Hair
 Shakes Death and Ruin. Then let all beware,
 Lest in my Shape a Basilisk appear,
 Whose darting Eyes send out a poisonous Flame,
 That kills, though unperceiv'd from whence it came
 A Shaft of Fate through trembling Air there flies,
 That Life though ne'er so guarded can surprize ;
 Thus springing secret Mines, I overthrew*

C H A P. IV.

When he returns to his Lady. His kind Reception,
And contemplating on her excellent Beauty.
How he goes Abroad a Visiting with her, being
constituted her Page; and in her Visit to a
great Lady, puts a very comical Trick upon a
Fryer, the Ladies Confessor, &c. to
the Mirth and Wonder of the Family.

W E poor Scholars, upon my Master's
Exit into I know not what World,
though not at the usual Tides or Festivals
making up, had a long Jubilee, and return-
to our sundry Habitations. As for my
part, my charitable Lady receiv'd me with
much Kindness as she did when my lucky
stars threw me first in her way: which, in
gratitude, constrain'd me to a double di-
gence in obliging her, as far as my tender
stars capacitated me. She deck't me now
with finer Plumes than ever, constituting
her Page to wait on her at Home and A-
broad. And my Lord was no less pleased
with my little Waggeries, spending some
hours in Winters Nights to hear me run on
Discourse, of Childish Recreations; and
I bolted out any thing that made my La-
dy fall into a Fit of Laughter, he seem'd
re-joy'd; for he lov'd her entirely, even
a Doating; and when at any time she
was discomposed, he suited his Humour to
sym-

sympathize with her in Melancholy ; for indeed, she was a very curious Creature, cast in one of Nature's choicest Moulds ; that when she was form'd, no doubt, the General Dame cried, *A Lucky Hit* ; and serv'd her as a Pattern of Beauty.

Young as I was, I could seldom, when in her Presence, keep my Eyes fixed upon any other Object. I had heard much talk of *Venus* ; and I concluded, if there was a Rivalry in Creation, of that Sex, this must be she. Thus in my Childish Imaginations, I form'd Idea's to my self; and that so strongly, that finding her one Day sleeping upon a Couch, I took the boldness to rumple her Ruby Lips with Kisses. At which she wak'd and smil'd ; yet blamed my Presumption, and told me, I must not presume to offer any more such unbecoming Rudeness, lest I forfeited the Esteem and Favour she had bestowed upon me.

Abash'd with this Reprimand, which, however had something of Mildness and Serenity in it, I retired at an awful Distance, bending one Knee to the Ground, humbly implor'd her Pardon for my unadvised Rudeness. Well, said she, I give it you, and treat it as only proceeding from the Effects of Youthful Folly, but beware how you transgress any more in this Nature. I promise her I would not, but ever observe my Distance and Respect to her Ladyship. I could not forbear smiling at the Simplicity

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of my Excuse; and so with some Cringes and
trapes I quitted her Retiring-Room, and
left her to her Repose.

The next Morning, she gave Order I should
wait on her abroad. At which I was not a
little over-joyed, as conceiting, like those in
the Frozen North, upon the Sun's retiring,
I was gloomy and dark when she withdrew
herself from my Sight; yet was so ignorant,
that I protest I knew not then to what my
Desires tended, being, as I may say in *Embrio*,
formless and disordered Chaos, or Confu-
sion, till maturer Years had polished my green
Understanding.

The Coach being ready about ten in the
Morning, abroad we went, and my Lady
payed Visits to divers Persons of Honour,
without any long stay; till at last, coming to
a great Countess's House, very pleasant and
delightful in its curious Situation and Gar-
dens, resembling the primitive Paradise; she
resolved not only to dine there, but spend a
part of the Heat of the Day under the Um-
brage of those cool and spreading Shades;
of which I was not a little glad, for my Belly
grumbled for an Antidote against Emptiness.
Our Entertainment was very sumptuous, and
various Discourses passed of State Affairs, and
sometimes of amorous Intreagues. I, tho'
waited, and a Stranger, not being minded
by way of Scruple, by reason of my Nonage
yet as little as I seemed to regard it, I could
perceive my Lady smile, with her dazzling

Eyes, on a florid brisk young Cavaliero, and many interchangeable Glances passed between them; and having heard him named, I concluded by what had been reported of my Mother, upon my so sudden coming into the World, for whose sake it was that she kindly entertained me; for this Gallant upon a more strict Enquiry, in which I was not wanting among the Servants, proved to be the very Man that Fame had whisper'd abroad for my true Father: The Conceit of which did not a little swell my Pride; for I was naturally ambitious, and methoughts had a mind that soared at things above my reach. Once or twice I thought to take an Opportunity to lay claim to him before we parted from that House; but then Fear and Shame check'd my Resolves, and something within me commanded me to wave it, least being mistaken, I repented my sawcy Presumption, so that leaving him and my Lady, as I was commanded for the more Privacy of Discourse in the Walks, after Dinner, I went to take a View of the Apartments, rambling up and down by my self, admiring now the curious Pictures on the Stair-cases and in the Galleries; then the curious Fretwork and gilded Cielings by and by the curious painted Glass in the Windows; till passing many stately Rooms I at last came into the Dormitory, or sleeping apartment for the Servants; and when should my Eyes fix on as the first Object before me a huge two handed fat Fryer, of the the O

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(as I perceived by his Habit) of St. *Fran-*
lying on a Couch on the Ground, (fast a-
p, and snoring like a Rattle-Snake; and
atever pleasant Dream, of the Confession
some pretty wanton Wench, had come
o his Head, I know not, but his Label of
Mortality, he decumbg on his Back, had
oke Prison; and May-Pole like, disdain'd
Stateliness should be hid. I was upon this
ce or twice, about to call the Maids to
ke measure of it; but being in a strange
ace, I knew not whether it might be taken
r a Jest or an Affront; and therefore
ought it better to leave him in such a ram-
ant Posture, than to expose his Vigour to
e longing Appetites of buxom Lasses: But
further my mischievous Design, and com-
el Father Shaveling to sing *Ave-Maria* back-
ard, to the Tune of, *The Millers gelding the*
Devil; in a little House hard by, I heard a
alf bleating, as bemoaning the Absence of
is Dam: Whereupon lifting up the Latch,
loosed him from his Stall, and brought him
o the Priest, to make his Confession of being
n hungry; and guided him so near, that he
oon espied what I directed him to; which
e taking for his Mammy's Teat, greedily
eized it, and fell to tugging, frisking his
Tail, and soft bleating, till he had lugg'd Sir
Domine off the Couch. In the mean time
while having softly tied his Legs and Hands
to prevent his disengaging himself, I writ
upon a Board over against him, with Pho

phorus, *Woe be to you Whoremongers !* which immediately as its Nature is, fell into a blinding Flame, burning in large Characters, plain and legible, which the Darkness of the Place render'd more dreadful. Upon which, I wish'd to listen at a Distance, undiscover'd what might be the Event.

This Babe of a Cow, as I suppose, finding no Milk come, suck'd and nibbl'd so hard that he wak'd the drousie Priest ; who seeing himself thus surprized, and the dreadful Hand Writing on the Wall, betwixt Pain and Fear, made him roar out, like *Perillus Phalaris's* Brazen Bull. Which alarming the Maids in the Pantry, they came running to see what the Matter was : But seeing the Ghostly Father so entangled, and seiz'd on by a cloven-footed Creature, and the harmless Flame still burning (its Nature being so violent) continue about a Quarter of an Hour) they run out skreaming ; whilst he, in a lamentable Tone, cried after them, to bring his Pail of holy Water, to douse the supposed Demon, and sent him packing to the *Red Sea*.

The Noise these Wenches made, brought several young Ladies, and the rest of the Servants ; who understanding the Cause of the Out-cry and Disturbance, peep'd in at the Door, but durst adventure no farther, 'till with much struggling, the good Father got loose, and came running out among them, crossing himself, the Calf still following him by his Breech, pushing him forward, and nu-

The Life of Monsieur Ragoue. 33

ing in Search of the mistaken Teat; which
w depriv'd of its Vigour, hung dangling
; which caus'd the Females to scamper
squeak; but one of the Men Servants,
re bold than the rest, perceiving the
est's Error, laid hold on the fourfooted
imal; which undeceiving the Assembly,
ned their panick Fear into loud Laughter.
The Priest, upon this, bit his Thumbs, ra-
stampt and fietted, drawing his Knife,
take bloody Revenge upon his Affronter;
was hinder'd, and the Matter excus'd, as
opening by Accident, through the Inno-
cy and Mistake of the Beast; but how the
ange flaming Hand-Writing came, they
re at a Loss to define, some of them con-
ding this happen'd as a Judgment to dis-
ver the secret Sins of the Confessor. How-
er, it made a great Noise in the Family,
for that the Priest through Shame and Anger,
t him up in his Chamber, and appear'd no
re that Day in Publick, though he was of-
s Present for to Prayers.

My Lady, upon going home, perceiving
Seas laughing heartily at what had pass'd, and
ough how I was enclined to Archness and
f tuggery, charg'd me to tell her if I had any
se d in the Matter. When not being able
in conceal any thing from her, I told her
ther only how I had manag'd the Intrigue, with
ath the Circumstances that attended the Ad-
cher ture. At which she could not forbear
ng ling and blushing; and when we came to
our

our Mansion, it served for Table-Talk
Supper ; and so tickled my old Lord's Fa-
cy, that with straining too much in an ex-
cessive Fit of Laughter, he bepist himself
and was forc'd to hasten into the Laundry
for a dry Clout ; which proved a new Su-
j & for Merriment.

*Thus my small Rogueries crept up by degrees,
Till grown to Monsters frightfuller than these ;
No Conjuring Monks such Magick Mischief wrought
As I, by Roguists Wit, on the Worlds Stage have
brought.*

C H A P. V.

*How undertaking to Travel with a young Lord, he views
several stately Towns and Cities ; and gives a Description
of the Alpes, in his Passage ; and the Strange, and
very Comical and Pleasant Entertainment they met with
in their first Night's Lodging in Italy : And other Mat-
ters.*

NEXT Opportunity I had to wait
my Lady in private, she demanded
whether I was willing to go with the young
Gentleman that walked with her in the
Garden, to travel ? urging how much
it would be to my Advantage, for the season-
ing and accomplishing my Youth with those
Qualifications that might hereafter render
me acceptable to my Superiors. At this
I fixed my Eyes on the Ground, and ap-
peared

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ed melancholy; not but that I had a
Desire to ramble, but thought it in-
convenient to be divorc'd, by a tedious Ex-
change to forego the Pleasure I took in gaz-
ing on her Charming and Angelical Fea-
tures. But she urg'd it so far, that at last
consented, if my Mother's Approbation
might be had. Which she undertook to
procure; and with some difficulty she yield-
ed, and the rather, because her Husband,
my reputed Father, had sworn to be the
Death of me, if ever I came in his way, for-
saking, among my *quondam* School-fellows,
when they upbraidingly started a Suspicion
of my Legitimacy, That I had rather
be accounted the base Son of that Noble
Father, than they twitted me with, than the true
Spring of that pitiful Pimping Cuc-
cumber, Monsieur Ragoue: Which unadvised
Words, foolishly let drop, were so loudly
echo'd abroad, that by one means or o-
ther it came to his Ear. My Mother and I
upon parted with Tears; and the
next Day, the young Lord de Villeroy, Son
of the Marquis of that Name (for such
was he call'd him to be) came to our House with
a very splendid Equipage, to take his leave
of my old Lord, but especially of my young
Mother, who was his Kinswoman at some
distance; and understanding, as he desir'd,
that she was to Accompany him, he seem'd migh-
tily pleas'd; and more, when asking me
various Questions, he found me endowed
with

with singular Natural Parts, and a prodigious Wit. My loving Lady caused her Steward to furnish me with all things necessary, and gave me a Cock-horse I mounted. Far we had to go, but feeling in the Pockets of my Horseman's Coat, I found a Box, and in it forty Luid'ors, or Seventeen and Six-penny Pieces of Gold. I presently knew the fair Harlots from whence they came, and blessed my lucky Stars, and her more bright in my Eyes than any Constellation, whose Bounty had rain'd this Shower of Gold upon me.

We travelled through divers fair and pleasant Countries, took a View of many stateful Cities and Boroughs; and I observed, in the Places where we lodg'd and Inn'd, that the Lord had a more peculiar Regard of me than of any other of his Retinue; which he told me, was for my Lady's sake, who had tenderly recommended me to his Care. Passing the huge rugged *Alpine Mountain*, that narrow Passage that leads out of *France* into *Italy*, I perceived, tho' the Weather was extremely hot at the bottom, we were on the top, in Winter-season, the Air being thin and sharp; the Snow, though in the middle of Summer, lay thick and undissolv'd in divers Valleys, or Hollows of the Rock; and in a heavy lowring Weather, a Sea of watery Clouds floated beneath us; the Sun shining and all being serene and calm over our Heads. In four Days we pass'd over the mighty Mountains, and enter'd *Italy* it being

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Purpose to visit that once famous Coun-
try in times past, renown'd for its pleasant
situation and Fertility thorough the World,
and now, through the Pride and Contention
of the Nobility, the Laziness of the Common
People, and the Pope's of *Rome's* Usurpation
and Tyranny over a great Part of the most
flourishing Provinces, it is much decay'd, and
its Grandeur dwindled into scarcely any
thing that may be compared to its former
Prosperity and Tranquillity, many Castles and
Manors lying waste and ruined, without
Inhabitants or Owners; so that the Roads,
for fear of the Banditti, and other sorts of
Robbers, are dangerous to travel without a strong
Guard, especially by Strangers who are un-
acquainted with such Turnings as may ena-
ble them to avoid their usual Lurking-pla-
ces; as I have found by woful Experience,
which sufficiently punish'd me for my for-
getfulness and Waggeries, but harden'd and prompted
me to greater Mischiefs.

We passed to the Confines of *Naples*,
without meeting with any considerable Ad-
ventures worth relating; unless some unea-
siness in the Quarters; for one time, missing of a
Road, and mistaking our Road, we fell short
of any convenient Town or Village capable
to receive us; so that the Sun being down,
my Lord order'd one of his Servants to call
for a few straggling Houses, to see if they
could afford us any Entertainment; the
chief

chief of 'em appeared to be a kind of an old man in the
and to that they made their first Address in the
The Master, upon our Calling, came on a white horse, and
an old tatter'd Shepherd's Coat; and he, the
dim-sighted clapt his Spectacles on his Nose, so far
the better to discern what we were; and he, the
seeing our Equipage above the ordinary Rank, with many obliging Scrapes and Compliments, told us his House was at our Service, and we should be very well entertain'd. As the
growing dark, my Lord accepted of our offer of Proffer, and so we dismounted: But when he perceived the Hangings consisted only of Cobwebs, and the other Furniture not made answerable to 'em, he would have been gone, had he not have been assur'd there was no better Conveniency within three Leagues, and the Night was not only dark, and over-clouded, but that by the Rain, then began to fall in greater Showers, and were promised greater Inconveniencies, besides the threatning Danger of the Wood, and I being very much tired, was glad to take an Opportunity to rest me; but more joy'd, when I saw the Pot over the Fire, and rily concluding before, that that had been a fasting Night, and we must have gone to Bed, not expecting any Providence in such a Place, at such a Time of Night.

Our Landlord having welcom'd my Lord and his Retinue, with such Compliments as he had, order'd the Cloth immediately to be set.

and in the Parlour, and a great Bustle there
in the House to put things in pimlico;
then all on a sudden my Landlady cried
out, she had not Chairs or Stools enough,
so sent her Daughters to the Neighbours
borrowing, but they being as slenderly pro-
vided she could procure only a Form on
which they used to kill Hogs; and that it
might come least in sight, was planted at the
lower-end of the Table, whither the Light
of our one Candle shined but very faintly.
For the Conveniency of our Horses, I
should have told you before, the Hogs were
made close Prisoners, being crowded to-
gether in a little Hole that used to serve for a
Kenneel. These things appear'd a little
strange, as very unusual to us; but where there
is no better to be had, it is Prudence to rest
contented. And now Supper being taken
up, and set on the Table, we were invited
to eat; and what should we find, but every one
a Wooden Bowl or Dish, with a Spoon in it
of the same Metal, full of *Ola Podrida*, a
kind of Pottage made of several sorts of
Fire-weeds, and a little minced Meat to savour it,
had at none but our Landlord himself, with-
out the Help of an Herbal, could ever have
known 'em out, at least, by their Names.
My Lord, who was not used to such Diet,
had order'd us strictly to conceal his
Dislike, lest, as is usual, there should be any
treachery in the People of the House, who
respecting, by that means, he had great
Riches

Riches about him, might give Notice some Gangs abroad, order'd us all to down, rather to please my Host and Hostess than any Stomach he had to this first and Course ; for, upon Enquiry, we found there was no second ; nor had they now had so sumptuous Diet (as they term'd it) but that their Daughter's Sweetheart had made Promise to come with divers Friends, and in the Morning to marry her ; but had then sent Word, and could not perform Promise.

We, however, having keen Appetites, a little ; partly to still the growling of empty Guts, and partly in Complacency. As for Drink, there was not any but *Adams* Ale, Whey, and about two Gallons of *Milk* in all the Hamlet : With the first and latter mix'd together we made our Beverage ; our Host, his Spouse, and Daughter fed lustily, and carous'd fair Water as vorourly-as if it had been the best Hock Longoon. Such is the Advantage of Use to Mankind, that being accustomed to a Diet it suffices Nature, and becomes pleasant. The Wooden Utensils, and the other Tallow Materials, being remov'd, the Damsel was well-complexioned, well-featur'd, of a middle Stature, taking the Sign from her old Dad, sung very sweetly and had much Skill and Judgment. With which perceived, my Lord was better pleas'd, than with his Commons ; I could perceive the

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to talk with the Language of her Eyes, and
to seek an Opportunity to whisper something
to her Ear : At which she seem'd rather
joyc'd, than displeas'd ; and I have since
been inform'd, That People in those Parts,
sleeping such Houses on the Road, are glad
they can oblige a noble Guest, to make
them liberal ; even their Wives, if tolerably
handsom, Young, or otherwise their Daugh-
ters, will creep to Bed to them, with the
softest Hint, it will not displease them ; and I
am not mistaken, if, I say, my Lord, to make
the Night pass the pleasanter in so hard a
lodging, did not Tap the Vessel her expe-
cted Bridegroom was to have broach'd the
next Morning, for I heard bare Feet come
climbing up Stairs when he was a Bed. But
lest I prove too tedious, Bed-time being
come, a greater Bustle was made ; for the
house afforded but Three, and those very
curvy ones, and we were ten, beside the Fa-
mily. My Lord, we knew, expected to have
one to himself, and another kind of a Bed-
fellow (as I before hinted) than any of us.
The Host, his Wife and Daughter, for our
better Accommodation, generously offer'd,
the Weather being warm, to take up their
Night's Quarters on a Heap of Rushes ; and
after a while another Bed was procur'd a-
board for three of our Companions ; and so
we hastened to our several Cabbins : That to
which I, and two of my Companions, were
destined, was the most exalted, being one

Degree advanc'd above the Garret, or a
 vity between the Ridges and the Rafters
 the general Rendezvous of Rats and Weese
 to ascend to which, we went up a Ladder
 but of a very few Steps ; then popt thro'
 rough a Trap-door, like a Play-house Door
 from under the Stage, it being a curious
 ner-room, and no Partition, but the Partition
 tiles between us and Heaven ; and it had
 been better for me, that I had been a Ro-
 Dancer, as it fell out in the Morning. The
 Night, indeed, our Hostess leading us,
 kept our Feet regular on the Rafters, so
 we came where our Bed lay upon a Heap
 Brushwood, in lieu of a Bedstead ; and she
 leaving us a Bit of Candle as long as our
 Nose, with great Care and Caution we should
 not be wasteful, but extinguish it as soon
 we were pig'd in, she dropt us a Courtesan
 and bolted down again as if a Ghost had ap-
 peared into the nether Shades, and now
 had leisure to take a further View : When
 upon Examination, we found the Ticking
 our Bed to be an old Wool-sack, stuffed
 with Rags, and the Combing of Hens
 Thistle-Down, Hogs-Hair, and such
 sort of Materials ; our Rug being made
 of Lists, Shreds, and patch'd in divers Places
 consisted of as many various Colours as
 Herald's Coat, and challeng'd any Wool-
 Drapers Shop, for Variety, to match the
 Blankets we had none ; but our Sheets were
 pretty cleanly : Yet, being made of Cloths,

a G

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a Coat a Yard, were as soft as Hog-Skins :
after Bolster, indeed, was stuff'd with Wing
Tail-Feathers, that in Moulting-time, I
suppose, had been pick'd up on the Heaths
Commons.

Deeming this coarse Entertainment, we de-
voted a while, whether we had best un-
derstand it, or not ; but the Weather being ex-
tremely hot, we, at last, threw off our
Ragoues, and in we jump'd. We had not
Time long, but whole Battalions of Fleas, and
us, and whole Squadrons of Gnats, as hungry as
ravenous, invaded us, to feed on the Plenty
which Providence had sent them. All our
hands were instantly at work ; but we
could not defend our Buttocks from the one,
nor our Faces from the other of these
blood-thirsty Enemies ; they bit, and we
howl'd ; I grumbl'd, and my Companions
roar'd. Nor were Rats, Mice and Weefels
wanting ; for ever and anon they run cross
the squeaking and fighting ; so that if we
leap'd out of Bed to avoid the smaller
blood-suckers, we must unavoidably have
seen a Dance in the Rats Morris, and ha-
ve had more dangerous Bitings. About two
in the Morning, when we began to slumber
a little, the feasted Vermin giving us some
respite for the Blood they exhausted, we
were all on a sudden strangely alarm'd by
a harmonious Consort of Musick in the
walling of our Bed-Chamber, (for there it
was, the neighbouring Cats kept their No-

(eternal Revels) which continued in di
Strains for about two Hours, and then
fil'd off from their Copulation Recreat
to their Mouse-catching Occupation.

Thus we lay surrounded with all t
Plagues, and under a Necessity of endur
them till the long wish'd for Dawning
to relieve us from the hot Service we
engag'd in ; for our little Enemies, by
time, having digested their first Ban
came crouding again for a second ; so
before we could lift up our Hand to d
gage our Faces of the Gnats or Muscha
we had fifty Fleas a-piece nibbling at
Arfes.

At last, the welcome Light shin'd
rough the Crannies of the shatter'd W
which we beheld with as much Joy, as
lifted from the long Durance of Shackl
a dark Dungeon ; or a stale Maid, who
drawn in a lusty young Fellow to g
Church with her in earnest. Glad of
Deliverance, out we jumpt, as mottel
one of our Country Spaniels ; or a y
Lady newly come abroad to air herself
the Small-Pox. But now another Mis
befel me, for reeling too far before I
recover, missing the Joyces, treading o
Laths, down I dropt on my Lord's B
who lay in the Room underneath, and
perceive a thing in white vanish out o
Chamber, as I was falling ; for the C
and Dropping of the Ceiling had giv

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h Notice, that I found none in Bed with
yet never disputed but he was better
s'd with his Night's Lodging than we
been.

t first he started, and seem'd somewhat
riz'd ; but seeing it was I, and that I
pitiously scratch'd with the Snags of the
s, upon my Excuse, after having chid
for taking no better heed, he order'd me
mediately to dress my self, and call up
e Servants that lay in the Lower Room,
summon them in the Neighbouring
se. I punctually obeyed his Orders, as
g the hastier to get some good Town
re we might refresh our selves. He
dred to see us so speckled ; but looking
is Pocket Glafs, he found he had not al-
ther escap'd the Hopping Legion.
Ve staid not for Breakfast, but liberally
arding our Host with two Pieces of
nt, our Hostess with one, and the pret-
Daughter with another ; an Estate in
r Pockets, we mounted, and took the
d we before intended.

hus I first Hardship felt, but not the last ;
ew Woes succeed, to plague me for Tricks past :
ate, at next Stroke, strikes me from Fortune's Wheel ;
ut ne'er alone will I her Fury feel :
nce she will me a desperate Gamester make,
o play at all, but that I'll win some Stake :
o spite her, I her Fav'rites will out-wit,
nd push them in, who dragg'd me to the Pit.

C H A P. VI.

How in their Way to Naples, they were set on by divers Thieves or Banditti, who came out of the Wood upon them, and the brave Resistance they made. How his Horse being kill'd, he fled into the Wood, where he was there rifled and made Prisoner by them; his Companions, that were not killed, he rescued himself, charging through, and escaping.

WE had not rid above a League, being on a rising Ground, we had a Prospect of a Country that appeared to us more fair than any we had yet seen since passing the *Alps*: And seeing a considerable Town called ——— about two Leagues, thereabouts, farther, we concluded we should meet with better Refreshment than we had the foregoing Night, or the preceding Morning. And thus flattering our selves with a good Dinner, we rode on till descending the Hill, we came into a Hollow-wood, the one side being inclos'd with a craggy shatter'd Hill, and the other with a large Wood, rising considerably higher than the Road; we were not far enter'd into it, when we heard a Pistol go off behind us, and immediately another before us; when not knowing what to make on't, we all provided against the worst: Which indeed was enough; for we had no sooner turn'd blind of Trees, but we espied five or six

Horsem

horsemen not a Bow-shot off, spreading
across the Way; and others coming out of
the Wood, at some Distance beyond them.
This gave Suspicion that they would not
be true Friends; but my Lord being a Man
of great Courage, and his Eight Followers
not inferiour to him, he resolv'd to press
on and venture the Brunt, if it came to the
extremity, rather than shun a Danger,
where perhaps there might be none, by cow-
ardly Flight. Coming nearer and seeing
they gave not way, but stood to stop the
passage, he rid up with his Sword drawn,
and hanging by a Chain on his Wrist, and his
holcock, and bore it on the Pommel of
his Saddle, with the Muzzle mounted, hav-
ing ordered his Men to halt, demanded what
they were, and why they stopt up the Way?
They answer'd him somewhat roughly,
we are the Banditti, Servants to Mompazon,
Chief Lord of the Road; and if you and your
companions have any Regard for your Lives, it
is your wisest way to deliver all the Treasure you
have about you, as a Tribute to our Master, for
passing on his Ground. My Lord smil'd at
this, thinking, or at least, dissembled he
thought so, that they were only in Jest,
and told them, He believ'd they were Gen-
tlemen only upon a Frolick, and if they
would accompany him to the next Town
they should be entertained with the best the
place would afford. To this they replied
calmly, They must convince him by strong-
er

er Arguments, if he persisted not to deliver his Treasure ; and so having made ready, bore up to seize his Horses Bridle. Upon which, perceiving they were in earnest, he fired and shot the foremost through the Head, so that down he dropp'd in an eternal Slumber ; the next he miss'd, but kill'd his Horse under him : Then we hasten'd to his Assistance, and fired so thick (I being as active at that Sport as the rest, tho' I kept a sideling on) that we were, in a manner, circled in Clouds of Smoak ; and made such Havock of our Enemy, tho' twice our Number, that they gave Ground ; and we pressing hotly on, were trained into an Ambush ; for immediately a greater Number appeared at our Backs, who firing their Carbines at a Distance, kill'd my Horse ; whereupon being dismounted, I crept into the Wood : My Lord, I perceived, seeing himself in the Straight, with much Resolution and Bravery charged through those that first encountered him ; in which Action I see two of his Retinue drop, but with the rest (*Parthians* like, firing behind them as they fled) got safe to the next Town, where the Pursuit ended, it being as I afterwards heard, a strong Place, where a Spanish Troop of Guards lay ; who, notwithstanding my Lord's Intreaty, more particularly for the Recovery of me, whom he supposed they had taken Prisoner, and considerable Profits, would not venture after them ; saying,

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they knew they always went in strong Parties, and not being certain of their Numbers, might be cut off by their Ambuscades in the Woods, or Hollows of the Rocks. My Lord (as I heard at my Return to *France*) was greatly grieved, to be thus unluckily deprived of me; but perceiving I entered the Wood, and supposing how barbarous never they were, they would not kill me in cold Blood, he comforted himself, that one day or other he might recover me, for Monday, or by Accident: But I never had the Happiness to see him more.

The Pursuit over, some of them came back to the Place of Skirmish, to carry off their Companions; when two or three running into the Bushes and Shrubs, to see if we had thrown any of our Treasure there, tho' I lay as snug in a Thicket as cou'd be, till I thought all might be blown over, one of them, ne'ertheless, spied my Heels; for I like a foolish Bastard, supposing all was hid, because my Head was found I was seiz'd by a strong Hand, and dragg'd out. Being thus took napping, I thought it the best way to fall on my Knees, and beg Mercy. At first, they threatned me with many bloody Oaths, and direful Imprecations, setting their Swords to my Breast, swearing they would kill me, unless I would discover how many more of our Company were absconded? or what Treasure we had hid there, before they came up with us? But then

when I pull'd out all my Gold and Silver except eight Pistoles quited in my Shirt Collar, they begun to unwrinkle their Brows; and searching, but finding no more they gave Ear to my Protestations, That there was no more of our Company in the Wood, but my self, nor any Treasure besides what I had given them; and so ordering me, on Pain of Death, not to make Word of any Money to their Companions they mounted me behind one of them, and convoy'd me to the main Gang; where the substitute Captain, impower'd with the Command of the Party, by his Chieftain, in this Days Adventure, seeing me finely clothed, and of a very fair Complexion, and that my Answers to his Demands were above the ordinary Rank of my Years, he concluded me to be of Quality; and therefore expecting a large Ransom, sent me Prisoner under the Conduct of two of his Gang tho' I protested I was but a poor Servant and falling on my Knees, with Tears in my Eyes, begg'd he would give me Liberty that I, if possible, might follow and find out my Master.

*But Fate deny'd me, till I found a way
For my Escape, far greater Pranks to play.*

C H A P. VII.

As he was carry'd Prisoner to the monstrous Cave, where these Thieves had their Residence, cut out of a Rock in a Woody Mountain: The Description he gives of it, and what he observ'd there. Of the unmerciful Usage he at first suffer'd among them. Their Manners, or Articles of Combination; and manner of Living.

MY unwelcome Italian Conductors immediately posted away with me I knew not whither, passing thorough Woods, winding Lanes, and divers bye Passages, till we came to a woody Mountain a great way from the Place where they took me prisoner: But I, as narrowly as I could, observ'd every Turning, and all the remarkable things in our Journey, hoping, one time or another, they would turn to my Advantage, in gathering my Escape, if I was not fall'n into the Hands of Cannibals, who would treat me like a *Bartholomew-Pig*, and devour me as a Dainty they had not lately lighted on. Well (to be brief) coming to this Mountain, periwig'd with over-grown Trees, after we had ascended about half a Furlong, with little or no great Difficulty, except the various Windings, upon the Removal of some Bushes, as I thought, appearing very green and pleasant, as if they naturally grew: And turning of a Key, the Entrance of a Cave appeared, so wide, that
in

in we went, Horse and Men: The Door on which they were, duly artificially fast'ned to renew the decay'd ones, and prevent Discovery, turning upon Hinges fixed in the Rock, clapt after us; but so softly, that could not be heard twenty Paces. Into this Place came Light many Ways, thorough Bushes and Shrubs that grew over it, the very much like that we call a Twi-light, a gray Morning: Yet I could see, when dismounted, several Stables very regular and in them a great many very curious Horses, well stor'd with Provender. They having rank'd their Steeds among the rest, one of them led me beyond these subterranean Stables, where a more comfortable Light appear'd; when ascending a few Steps, came out by Art in the Rock, as I suppose the Cave had been, we came into a kind of stately House; which made me conclude by what I saw there, if the History I had read of *Knight-Errantry*, were not *Fables*, I was got into an enchanted Castle for there I beheld a great deal of Arms and Armour (this being much lighter than the Stables) as also rich Apparel hanging upon Pins in the Wall; and divers enchanted Knights, as I took them to be, sleeping upon Rush-Mats and Couches.

I had a great Desire to be asking Questions but being in the Hands of an Enemy, knew not how they might be taken, and therefore remained silent, till I should understand

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stand their Humours better. Passing
this kind of a Hall, I came into their Kit-
Dishen, for so I took it to be, seeing the she-
Cook's hard sweating at the Fire, preparing
at provision, both boil'd and roast, against the
returning home of her Masters.
Hopes of some Victuals, a little comfort-
ed me; for now I had been a great while
without any thing to the Purpose, being,
as some say (if it may not be taken for a
sill) full of Emptiness; but I grew melan-
choly, when I was deliver'd into the Hands
of this strapping Female, with Command,
that she should lock me up in a close Room
near the Captain's Orders were further
Light down. My Entreaty signify'd no more
to a Penniless Wretch's to a Serjeant; for
I was push'd, and the Key turn'd upon
me. I found the Place wherein I was in-
clud'd to be very dark and lonesome, and
I fancy'd with my self, that like *Ulysses*, I was
as *Esau* got into *Polyphemus's* Cave; and so
strongly, through Fear and Surprize, my
Imagination worked, that Fear made me
doubt, whether their Spits and Cauldrons
were not loaded and stuffed with Human
Flesh; for though my Eyes, in part, gave
evidence to the contrary, yet I found some
difficulty to credit 'em; and what more
heightned my Suspicion, I heard, as I con-
sider'd, piteous Sighs and Groans in a di-
stant Apartment, as of a miserable Person
in great Distress; which cast me into such
a Fit

a Fit of trembling, that my Knees knockt then ha
together like the ratling Branches of a na- and gr
ked Tree, when beaten against each other by and in t
fierce March Winds. And in this Plight long.
continu'd, groaping up and down for some could h
Hours, when I heard without a very great Po
Trampling, and many Sounds of Human der
Voices; and soon after, a Key turn'd in the th six
Door, and I was order'd by my Female End
Jaylor to advance, for the great Captainorm's
Mompazon, was arrived, and desired to see th W
me. with Gu

Upon this, I recollected, as well as Fear ere to
would give me leave, my dejected Spirits unceite
and coming into the Hall, I found him sit on me,
ting at the Table, in State: His grim Countought
tenance, swarthy Complexion, and huge inf
long Whiskers, represented him so terrible air M
to me, that I concluded him no other than e Inju
a second *Cerberus*, the fabled Porter to *Pluto* est's C
King of the Infernal Regions: His Voice us C
when he asked me divers Questions, who e Bar
was? who were my Companions? an own, r
whence we came? founded like a speaking Uf
Trumpet, or the roaring of a Lion: His eech f
Sword, that lay on the Table before him rdlim
was at least four Inches broad, and fou tle wa
Foot long. To what he asked me, I an ine, c
swer'd him as well as my abrupt Stammer ken fr
ings, occasioned by Fear, would give m the R
leave. But not satisfied, but that I was As I l
Quality, he order'd me to the Pully, to ex, Com
tort from me what he thought I conceal'd lose ou
th

then had I a Cord fasten'd about my *Thumbs*, great Weights fasten'd at my Heels, in this manner being drawn up, I hung so long, that I thought my Legs and Arms would have parted from my Body; then, in that Posture, was I order'd, by reason of my tender Age, to have my Buttocks exercis'd with six Strings of knotted Whip-cord at the End of a Stick, which I was afterwards inform'd, others used to have on their Backs with Wyer, and afterwards rubb'd over with Gun-Powder. But as merciful as they were to me, by omitting the two latter, I was conceited, all my old School-Master had given me, was but a Flea-biting to this; and I thought that his departed Ghost, in Revenge, had instill'd this barbarous Cruelty into their Minds, to revenge, in some Measure, the Injuries I had done him; or that the *Pluto*'s Curses had reach'd me: But my piteous Cries and Intreaties, at length, made those Barbarians relent: And being taken down, unable to stand, lest I should die of Want of Usage, I was put to Bed, where my Head stuck to my Shirt and the Sheets like a *limb*; and only that Evening I had a little warm Broth given me, and a Glass of *Wine*, of which their Cave was well stor'd, taken from Merchants, as free Plunder upon the Road.

As I lay in Bed, I heard the grim Captain to say, *Come, punish him no more, lest he die, and lose our expected Ransom*; but speaking to their

their Female Attendant, commanded her to give me the Liberty of the Kitchen and Hall, but no farther, and see what she could wheedle out of me by fair Means and good Usage. Having feasted and drunk plentifully, they laid them down to sleep; till just before Day, upon tinkling of a little Bell, they got up, and went to their old Trade, with all their Strength, as having Notice the Evening before, by one of their Scouts, That a rich Convoy was come from *Naples*, in order to pass for *Rome*. Leaving only their Female House-Keeper, two Grooms, and a Porter of the Gate at home, she came to my Bedside, and seeming greatly to pity the Severity I had undergone, brought with her a Flask of *Florence Wine*; which was more welcome than her Presence; having drawn a Glass, or two, and revived me a little, she helped me to rise, and set a cold Chicken before me, for my Breakfast, bidding me eat of Good-chear; for though she believed I would be kept Prisoner there all my Lifetime, for ought she knew, if Money was sent for my Ransom, yet she assured me, no Punishment, as to any thing to be corporally inflicted on me, was past. At this I appeared wonderfully dejected, and entreated her to become an humble Intercessor for me, that I might be dismiss'd, seeing I being of poor Parentage, and only a Servant in the Company where they found me, could not expect any Ransom; my Father, for so

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ing I spoke that displeased him, having utterly renounc'd me, and would rather, if he saw it, rejoyce in my Misery, than in my ease. She told me, she durst not move any thing that way in my Behalf, and therefore bid me be content with my Condition, and leave the rest to Time ; and so leaving me pensive and sad, went about her Household Affairs. In the mean while, having satiated my craving Stomach with the best of *Italy* had afforded me since my coming into it, which I wish'd I never had seen, my Curiosity led me to take a stricter View of my Place, and meditate on my Escape.

Having cast my Eyes on divers Things, at last I fixed them on the Orders of this wicked Crew, hung up on a Pillar, sworn to and subscribed with their Names ; which denoted no less than one hundred and twenty in the Combination, and for Curiosity-sake, I wrote them down, viz.

A. B. Swear by the Head and Soul of our Captain, to be obedient to all his Commands.

I. To be faithful to my Companions in all their Designs and Attempts.

II. To be always present at such Meetings as the Captain shall appoint, here, or in any other Place, except his Word to the contrary.

III. To be ready at all Hours, by Day and by Night, to Call or Notice.

IV. Never to desert my Companions in any Danger, but to persevere, to the last Breath.

V. Never to fly from an equal Number of Opposers, but rather die, courageously fighting on the Place.

VIII. To

VII. To help one another, whether taken, imprisoned in Sicknes, or any other Distress.

VIII. Never to leave, if possible I can bring it off, of my Companions Bodies, wounded or dead, behind me to fall into the Enemy's Hands.

IX. To confess nothing, if taken; or ever to discover the Abodes and Residence of my Accomplices, though put to Racks, Tortures, or Death it self. And this Oath when break in the least Tittle, may Power and Damnation here and hereafter my Plague and Punishment.

Thus Vice do's oft a Combination find,
Stricter than the now in Fashion, Vertue, bind
My Projects, though to 'scape this Crew, must da
Be laid; my Wits must not be now asleep:
This kind of Living, nothing suits my Vein;
I must be freed, and rambling once again.

C H A P. VIII.

How he meditates his Escape and Revenge: Finds the Beautiful Captive: And how the Woman that drew the Thieves Vittuals, and looked after their Den, relates the comical History of her Life, and manner of coming thither. How he wonderfully escaped; and causing Destruction of the Nest of Thieves, released the sorrowful Lady.

THrough Fear of Danger, and Desires
once more to see my Native Country
my Mind run extremely on Projects, how
might out-wit these Blood-sucking, crafty
Vermin, and bring a Mischief on their Heads
as such Spoilers deserve, whose Hands are
gainst all Persons; and the Hands of

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Men, for the general Safety, ought to be
against them. These, at this time, were
my Thoughts; tho' indeed, I have since, in
some measure, out-done the most expert of
them. Having cast many things in my Mind,
was frequently at a Loss; but at last, re-
solved to see what I could do with our
bouncing Female: And instead of her wheed-
ling me, I concluded to summon all my In-
genuity to out-do her. But how handsome-
ly, to break the Ice (as the Countryman
calls it) and start what might be most tak-
ing, was the main Matter: Sometimes I
fancy'd to tell her what great Matters I
would procure her, if she would further my
Escape, and go along with me into my
Country: But that was dash'd again, when
I consider'd, her main Discourse tended to
that, by the Captain's Order; and that it
would, if she should be false to me, improve
my Punishment, or prolong my Imprison-
ment. Whilst I was thus musing about
what I should do, she having made an End
of her Work, came to me, leading a very
pale, but dejected Fellow-Prisoner in her
hand, on whose Beauty Sorrow had im-
printed Paleness, and her Cheeks seem'd
drown'd with the often trickling of Tears.
After a Sigh or two, she sat down by me:
I desired our two-handed House keeper, to di-
rect the Melancholy she had perceiv'd had
propos'd to give us a brief Narra-
tion of her Pranks, and how she came to
this end

this Place, Trust and Office. Which seeing us attentive to listen to, she began in this manner :

It matters not (said she) to tell you where I was born, it being too great a Difficulty for me to do, seeing my Parents were wandering Strolers, and carried me at their Backs thro' so many Countreys, before I came to Understanding, that themselves could never give any direct Account of it, only thus far, that the Chamber where my Mother pigg'd me, was a Gravel-Pit; had a Bed, a few Rushes on the Ground; Curtain-Peble-Stones; and Tester, the Skyes: And at twelve Years of Age I had the wide World to shift in; my Parents taking their leave of me, stear some little swinging over the Cross-Timber, for breaking-open and robbing a House, and murthering most of the Family.

The Terrour of this Disaster, and my conversion to the kind of living wherein they had hitherto dragg'd me up, made me consider how, by some genteeler way, I might advance my Youth, and that little Beauty that Nature had furnished me withal. Seeing others fine, I emulated their Bravery, being homely clad my self, and much affected gaudy Apparel, yet was a great Hat of Labour and Pains-taking; and hearing what a brave Place *Naples* was, and the Gallantry of those People that liv'd there, resolv'd to trudge thither, in hopes of meeting

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ing my Condition, and bettering my Fortunes : And so setting out, without any further Deliberation, and almost at every other Step struck Fire on the Flint pav'd Causeways ; an Emblem of what Fire-works I would make before my Return.

Coming into this stately City, the most spacious in all *Italy*, except *Rome* and *Venice*, I wander'd up and down, begging from Door to Door for several Days, till an old Woman who kept an Ordinary, seeing me a likely Girl, and she then wanting a Scullion Drudge, entertain'd me as her Servant. But this kind of Work not suiting my Humour, I stay'd no longer than I could make a Booty ; and then packing up my Awls, gave her the Go-by. I found by our Trade, she had Money, tho', for fear of losing it, she always complained of Poverty ; but where it was nested, and how to find and take these white and yellow Birds, I was at a loss ; till one Day, musing on the Matter I resolv'd to fire the Gallico-Hangings in her Chamber, as done by Accident of a Candle placed too near them, when I light her to Bed.

So this I effected ; and she thereupon, the first thing she did, leaving me labouring to extinguish the Flame, which I so artificially placed, as if it had been as firmly nailed down as the rest, took out something, on which, no doubt, her Heart was most intent ; and that, I concluded must be her Treasure.

I had

I had no sooner put out the Fire, and running to her, said, *Pray, Seniors* (or *Mare*) (strefs) *don't be frighted; the Danger is over*. But instead of thanking me, though I looked ed, with Smoke and Soot, like a Brimstone Devil, recollecting her Amazement and Anger in fright, Anger took Place; so that falling on me with great Fury, she cufft and kickt me well-favour'dly for my Carelessnes (my term'd it.) I bore it patiently, however as knowing now I had not long to stay with her; for the next Day, when the House was full of People, and all in a Hurry, stole her Bunch of Keys out of the Bag, sneak'd up Stairs, unhoarded the long imprisoned Cash, and so rubb'd off without any ceremonious Compliment at parting. For the Loss of which (as I was afterwards inform'd) she fell distracted, and took her Quarters in the College of the Bethlemites.

Having got what I long'd for, and taken on Content, I trudged on all that Day, and all the Night following, thorough all the Cross-Ways I could find, for fear of a Pursuit; but when the next Morning Sun gladdened the Mountain-Tops with its chearful Beams, I found my self weary and faint through long Travel and Want of Food, when striking about a Furlong into a large Wood, I took the Boldness (after having a little satisfy'd my craving Stomach with Kernels, Medlars, and other wild Fruit growing

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growing there, and a Promise of better
(more) to open my Pouch, and found Coin,
the richest of both sorts, amounting in all
forty Ducats ; a greater Sum, perhaps,
than many of my Ancestors had seen of their
in the whole Progress of their Lives.
This exceedingly lightned my Heart, till Fa-
ther's and Mother's Catastrophe bolting in-
to my Thoughts, caused in me some Alay,
and put it into my Head, that I was not yet
arrived at a Place of Safety ; so tucking up
my Treasure in an old ragged Petticoat, I
again took the Road, begging and taking up
Nights Quarters in Woods and Barns,
yet fear my changing of Money in those
parts, should breed Suspicion, and cause my
long stay'd ; till I came into the Suburbs of
the City of *Florence*, and there I concluded
I was pretty safe. This City gives Name to
the Province or Dukedom of *Florence*, and
is a very fair one, seated near the River
Arno and *Chian*, beautified with many state-
ly Edifices ; the Duke being accounted the
wealthiest and chiefest Merchant in *Italy*, usu-
ally called the *Great Duke of Tuscany*. Here
I bought me a convenient neat Garment
and going into the Fields, stript me of my
coarse Apparel, almost degenerated into
raggs, and buried them in a Lime-pit, that
they should never rise up to accuse me, by
any Description that might be given con-
cerning them. This done, and being a lit-
tle smugg'd up, I came back again, and
bought

bought other Neccessaries I wanted ; and about the Sun's declining, I took me a Lodging, pretending many sham Occasions for my coming thither, as, that I had a Business to return'd thither, on Board the Gallies that had been cruising in the *Mediterranean*. But at last, finding my Landlady an honest, free, open-hearted old Woman, but withal very poor, after having taken a View of that spacious and pleasant City, taking the Name from the curious Gardens of Florence, that almost every where incompass it, I told her, I was so mainly taken with its Situation, and healthful Air, that I would, if I could meet with a convenient Service, settle there ; and if she would use her Endeavours to that purpose, I would, out of the Money I had, give her a Gratitude ; and after it, when more able. She promised her Diligence should not be wanting to serve me : When, to encourage her, I gave her for a good Supper, and a Can of Wine, and so we spent the Evening in telling of old Stories. In the Morning she went to the Hunt ; and returning about Noon, told me, she had been successful ; for that a Merchant's Maid died the Day before ; and that they were destitute of another. After Dinner, I went to this Place ; and though I was young in Years, was very well approved of by my Face, and the little Replies I met with, happening to be very taking with my Landlady and Mistress ; but more (as I perceived)

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his Smiles and Leering) with a young
park that stood at their Elbow; with
hom I afterwards was better acquainted,
ough he had better never have seen me,
in the Sequel will appear. To be brief
en, I was hired, and admitted one of his
omesticks.

CHAP. IX.

*continues her Story: How being in the Service of a
rich Merchant of Florence, the Cash-keeper fell in
Love with her, promised her Marriage, and made her
rich Presents: How she discovered her Master's In-
treagues with his Partner's Wife. And how her Sweet-
heart, mistaking her Bed, stumbl'd into that of her Mi-
stress; and of the Adventure that befel him there, and
how she resented so great an Affront put upon her.*

Being initiated one of the Family, I was,
no doubt, in a happy Station, if I could
ve seen when I was well. At first I lived
ry comfortably, making it my Business to
ease and wind my self into the good Opi-
on of all, soon perfectly understanding the
ays of the House, and in a Year's time be-
me head Maid, or rather House-keeper:
at that time, another Merchant, somewhat
Years, who had marry'd a beautiful young
dy, became Partn'r with my Master, and
ought his Family, which was but small, to
r Habitation: By which Means my Vails
d Wages much encreased; and with 'em,
ewise my Pride. So that affecting Gaity,
D I lay'd

I lay'd out lavishly, till at last I appeared lovely in the Cashier's Eyes, viz. the young Spark before-mentioned, that he took convenient Opportunities to do me Favour. I dissembl'd my taking Notice of them, till at length, by my amorous Leers, Wink Smiles, and other Gestures, I had drawn him in over Head and Ears in Love with me, thinking no Treats nor Presents within his Power that I could reasonably demand, too much for me. So having nooz'd the Woodcock with the Snares of my Glances, I resolv'd to make the best Market of him. I sued earnestly for a Night's Endearment, my charming and ravishing Arms and Embraces (as he was pleas'd to stile 'em.) But tho' I gave him no absolute Denial, I found Excuses and Delays, when I perceiv'd him most pressing towards, and languishing for Enjoyment, till I had made him pay as costly for it, as if he had intreauged with a Dutchess.

I soon brought him to this, when he perceiv'd other Arguments were in vain. Rings, and Jewels, that he thought most tempting, he procur'd me: And for those precious Presents, thought himself over-compens'd with a few Smiles, and my kind Acceptance. At this Distance I held him a considerable Time, 'till hearing a rich Uncle of his died, and left him a good Estate, and then I thought it my time to close with him, and hamper the Woodcock in a Matrimonial

On a Springe, I took my time to propose to him, when the warm Touches of my naked Breasts, and warmer Kisses had heightened and inspired beyond an ordinary Transport; strengthening my Allegations with modesty and Blushes, making him believe I was worthily descended, though Misfortune had thrown my Family from the Precipice of a great Estate, into the low Valley of Meanness and Poverty. To this Proposal I found him but cold in his Replies; which made me sling out of his Arms in a great Heat, and vow ne'er to entertain any good thoughts of him more, seeing his Passion ended only to base and sinister Ends. He not being able to part with me, pull'd me back again; and on his Knees begging my pardon, protested to yield to whatever I desired, and submit himself, in a blind Obedience, to what I should direct, without any scruple or Reluctancy. I then propos'd the Day of Marriage; but he seemed so impatient of enjoying me, that upon his swearing to keep the Day prefixed punctually, for the tying of our Hands, I promised a Surrender of the Treasure he languished for that very Night, and set the Hour for more Privacy, when he should steal into my Arms, when in Bed. At which, giving me an hundred endearing Kisses, he seemed so ravished, and transported, he knew not how to express sufficient Thanks for my obliging Condescension.

At the time of this Assignation, my Master's Part'ner, Signior *Elnorea*, was gone on Journey, and had left his beautiful young Wife to the Care of *Almanda*, my Master, whose Fidelity he no ways mistrusted. But, on the contrary, his fair Charge had so overcome and captivated him, that he sought all manner of Ways to enjoy her. She repulsed the first Assaults with many Reasons, why she ought not to consent; but at the second, or more furious than the former, coming to a Capitulation, she promised, between a kind of Willing and Unwillingness, to surrender up that Night the Fort of her Chastity, if he could handsomely give his Wife the slip, and convey himself into her Chamber, without any Suspicion tending to a Discovery; for she was, it seems, more careful of her Honour than her Vertue. This double Appointment made the Hours seem tedious; and we fancy'd the Sun had wander'd out of its wonted Road, and gone the farthest Way about the Western Ocean. At last Night came, and Supper being on the Table, I and my Spark gave our Attendance; but scarce could I contain, with holding my Sides, and biting my Tongue, from bursting into Laughter, when I see him stand like the Picture of the Man in the Moon, either gazing on me, or wandering he knew not whither his Wits, no doubt, being in the Eclyptick, and his Imagination bent on the sweet Con-

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contemplation of those charming Delights and pleasures he suddenly expected to find in my sweet and delicious Embraces; so that he was no further serviceable in his Attendance, than to make the Company Pastime; for if his Master called for Beer, he brought him a clean Plate; or his Mistress for a Glass of Wine, he presented it to me; or, to mend the Mistake, to Madam *Elnorea*; which did cause a great deal of pleasant Discourse, that should be the Cause of this so sudden Disorder?

This, I observ'd, was not the Disorder of a Spark alone; for my Master, partly by the strength of Imagination, and partly by those Flames the incomparable Beauty and alluring Promises his Partner's Wife had kindled in him, made him ready to dissolve Snow against the Heat of the Sun: Fancied he moved him to think he was already in her soft Arms; and clung as close to the amorous Folds of Love, as the Ivy to the begirt Oak; sometimes he imagined he heard the Twang of her harmonious Lute Tags against her Stays, making herself ready, to be more ready for the soft Complements; and grew so impatient of Delay, that he put off his trifling Drouziness, and early Business in the Morning, all things were taken away, and he hasted to Bed with his Wife the next Morning, to lull her asleep, and steal away into Madam *Elnorea's* Arms. He effected (as I understand) the first, by feigning

to fall into a profound Sleep, as soon as he was a Bed, thereby preventing the Love toying wont to pass between them, that he might the sooner receive them with more Satisfaction from another. This Neglect of her Youth and Beauty, made my Mistress shed some Tears, for the slight Regard he had; but knowing how humourfome and peevish he was, if suddenly waked, she considered it would be more seasonable to expect his Kindness at another time; and hushing her Cares, settled herself likewise.

The cunning Husband was diligent waiting for that Opportunity; and very carefully stealing out, went as softly to the Chamber of Assignment; to which there was no other way, but by the Apartment where I lay; and being wakeful, in Expectation of my Spark, a Mouse-tread could not escape my hearing his tripping up gingerly one Pair of Stairs above, fancying it was my Husband elect, who blinded with Love or the Darknes of the Night, had mistaken his way, and so expected his Return, when he had groaped himself into a better Information; but his Stay, and the long Silence that ensued, made me grow both jealous of a greater Beauty than my own, whom I supposed had tempted him from me, and being now delayed, when I had fully framed my Mind to a Complacency: But alas my Love was mistaken in another Place for about half an Hour after this disloyal

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as his Husband had left the warm Bed of his hitherto constant Bedfellow, to go a Catterawling, Mine, who was aged about twenty, and a brisk, lusty, handsome Fellow, got out of his Bed, having slept against his Will; and not knowing how much of the Night had stol'n from him, in his slumbering, rubbing his Eyes, between sleeping and waking, groaped the Way in the Dark to his my Chamber: but instead thereof, entered into that of his Mistress; and encountering with a Bed, doubted not but he was in his right. Whereupon, lifting up the Cloaths hastily, he laid himself down by her side, and was not long there, ere he began to bustle; which soon waked his Mistress; who supposing it her Husband, embraced him with ardent Affection, crying, in a soft loving tone, *Oh how cold you are, my Dear? Come, warm me in my Embraces!* And hugging him very close, with many Kisses, and tender Twinings, she told him she was wakened by what had perplexed her in her Sleep, was but a Dream, for that she had fancy'd she had felt for him before, all over the Night, and he was no way to be found, intending to tell him how she had dream'd, That at that very Juncture, her Man and her Maid, meaning me, were naught together, and just in Love's lawless Conjunction; but that I am (continued she) that it is but a Dream, and that waking, I have thee in my Arms.

These

These Actions and Expressions not only convinced my Spark he was in an Error but so startled and surprized him, that he knew not what to think or do ; at first he was almost dead with Fear, but by degrees recollecting his scattered Spirits, he began to think of a Stratagem to protect him from Discovery: All the Passages he had observed between his Master and Partner's Wife came fresh into his Memory, and from all the Circumstances concluded they were in this critical Minute consummating their Loves, and that if he refrained from speaking, he doubted not but she falling asleep again, he might steal away, and hasten to my more desired Embraces : But, alas in this he found himself deceived ; for the Fancies in her Dream, and her natural Inclination, had so warmed her Blood, that abandoning for that time the Modesty of her Sex, she grew so impatient of Delays, that he found himself incapable of resisting the Emotions she had raised within him, but suffered himself to be taught by her those Love-Lessons designed him by another School-Mistress. She found him so active and vigorous in his Caresses and Embraces above what are usually the Attendants of a Marriage-Bed, that together with his continued Silence, gave a Suspicion that she was mistaken in her Bed-fellow ; whilst he, on the other hand, lay sweating and trembling in a Peck of Troubles how to make his Re-

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eat handsomely before his Master's Return: For if he surprized him, he could expect nothing but a bloody Revenge for that he had acted to his Dishonour and disgrace, through Mistake.

After a thousand Cogitations and Revolutions in his Mind, weighing each Particular in the Balance of his green Understanding, he considered it might be of dangerous consequence to ask Pardon of the injur'd Lady for what had passed between; 'em and again, to steal away when she was asleep, without discovering, would undoubtedly betray the whole Mataer by her Petulance, some little toying and wanton Discourse, that might arise upon the Husband's coming; and who knows but she might too amply acknowledge his Gratitude for his late supposed Work of Supererogation, which might give him a just Ground to believe some other had supplied his Place in his absence, and consequently his Man, for no other could be suspected in the Family.

Apprehensions of Danger from the Discovery of a Secret of this great Importance, put him into such a Confusion that it was not to be judged which exceeded the Pleasure he had enjoyed, or the Trouble and Fear he underwent to purchase it. Whilst his Thoughts were engaged in this Perplexity, a lucky one came into his Noddle, which in all probability, might remedy all, and so after an endearing Kiss or two, thus spoke Silence.

Prithee, my Dear, what didst thou mean by that Dream thou toldest when I first came to Bed: the Matter I value not, but 'tis the manner of the Relation that troubles me, because in it thou namest me as a Servant, which is more like the Language of my Mistress than of my dear Love. I promised to be thy Husband, and will not fail at the time appointed, to bind the Contract with my Hand, which my Heart has already sealed, and now I have named my Mistress, she, no doubt, poor innocent Lady, lies fast asleep, whilst her perfidious Husband is in the Height of Enjoyment with his Partner's Wife. And here I ended with renewed Kisses; but she started, trembled, and turned away, not able at present to make any Reply. Never was *Alcmene* of old so amazed and surprized when *Jupiter* had enjoyed her in the Shape of *Amphytrion* her Husband. The Curtain of the Night indeed hid the Confusion of her Blushes and Disorder, which else had appeared greater than can be reasonably expressed: But seeing there was no Remedy to retrieve so strange an Accident, being I had at this time unwittingly broke her Marriage Vow, she comforted her self, in that Fault, if any, was not designed by her, but all the Guilt ought to lie on her faithless band, who had deserted her Bed for the lawless Pleasures of another's.

She was somewhat loath, however, to part with the Company of her Bed-fellow, but Reason perswaded her to it, for the

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aiding Danger Wherefore taking a Diamond Ring, she clapt it into the Hand of a Spark, saying, in a very low Voice, *If you are discreet, hug your good Fortune in Silence ; otherwise you shall find a Reward to this Surprize and your babling Folly.* Hereupon, without Reply, he sneaked away to his own Bed, whilst I lay in vain expecting his coming to me, mistrusting some such thing, but not knowing where it happened, 'till he gave me word after the full Relation, as it is here set down ; which Disappointment put me upon Revenge, which fell sure, tho' slow in Execution. For, as the Poet says,

*Woman, when crost in her desired End
Love, or call it LUST, becomes a Fiend,
Whose all her Revenge destroys her dearest Friend.*

CHAP. X.

She relates how her Master was surprized in Bed with his Partner's Wife, upon his unexpected coming home, and what Stratagems were used by the Wife to deceive the Husband. How she 'frighted her Master in his Return, by seizing him instead of her Lover ; with the Discourse that happened between them. How she, by discovering these Intreagues, ruined not only the Cabrier, but the whole Family, yet greatly enriched herself ; afterwards marrying. By what Means she fell into the Hands of the Thieves.

SHE would have ended her Story here at this time, reserving the Remainder for a better Opportunity ; but by my Importunity

ty she thus proceeded to our Pleasure and Satisfaction.

My Master (said she) having gained speedy Admittance, we may well imagine employed his Time to the end for which that Assignment was made. It is needless if I had been then their Bolster, to give Account of every amorous Folly that the two Lovers were guilty of, which consisted no doubt, more of Action than Expression and no wonder, since Kisses barrocade the Speech, we may imagine, that their Lips being tired, they encounter'd in another manner, some what more pleasing. But the Height of these ravishing Enjoyments and stolen Pleasures, the amorous Lady's Husband unexpectedly came home, and having a Key to the Back door, went directly to his Chamber, having struck a Light, and carry'd with him a Candle. His unexpected knocking at the Door startled our two Lovers, then more strictly intangl'd in each others Arms, &c. than *Mars* was by *Vulcan's* crafty Net, when intwin'd in amorous Follies with the Cyprian Goddesses. But she being otherwise employed than to come out of her warm Bed, and endanger the catching Cold, was as mute as a Fish, neither could she in reason make answer to the Disturbance of her Joys, till the Business she was about was consummated. But he, impatient of Delay, repeating his Stroaks on the harmless Door, she found herself constrained to

demand

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and demand who was there, tho' in Words imperfect as one waked out of a profound Sleep; and too sadly knowing the Voice upon Reply, she capitulated with him till she might abscond her Lover, for whom there was no other Refuge but crawling under the Bed; when being secured there, she jump'd out, and in great haste ran to the Door, speaking as she was wont, Oh my Soul! Oh, my dearest Heart! The most welcome Man to me alive. When in herself she thought, What envious Devil has now brought thee hither at this Juncture to disturb my early Joys?

The Husband thus entered, clasp'd her in his Arms. when the Temptation of her, in a manner, naked Beauties, made him unrefractive 'till he could enjoy them in a closer manner; and immediately throwing her into Bed, fell to making himself unready, that she might be the more ready, as he thought, to pleasure her. But she who had already the Satisfaction of a more vigorous and active Inamoretto, knew how to defend herself against the weak Assaults of an impatient Husband, as likewise to give her Gallant the better Opportunity to escape, said, Hold, hold, (pushing him back with her hand) my Dear prithee let's drink a Glass of Wine for Joy of thy Return, I have half a dozen Bottles which were lately sent me as a Present, the best you ever tasted; let me entreat you to step down into the Cellar,

lar, and fetch up one of them. With all my Heart (reply'd he) being overjoyed he might do any piece of Service to oblige her: And re-putting on those Garments he had already divested himself of, he began to search for his Shoes which he had carelessly drop'd so, that one of them was tumb'd under the Bed; for which he no sooner began to grope, but out she leap'd; and whilst her absconded Lover lay in a quivering Condition for fear of a Discovery, and pretending to be angry for his so long standing in the Cold bare-footed, snatched the Candle out of his Hand, saying, Is it possible, Husband, you should be thus looking for your Shooe, and not find it: Come, you shall stand no longer on the cold Boards, I'll rather suffer than you. And thereupon searched for it where she knew it was not. to avert the Light; and when he commanded her to go to Bed, unless she meant to be necessary to her own Death, in exposing her tender Body to the nipping Season, running against the Bed-stead, as unawares she let the Candle drop, which by its Fall was extinguished; and whilst her dear Husband was groping for it, she gave her Gallant the Hint by softly pulling him by the Foot, and that was his only time to 'scape. Whereupon he powdered with Dirt and Feathers, out he crept, and sneaked down Stairs like a Dog that has lost his Tail: But not so silently but I, who lay perdue, supposing him to

all y false Spark, bolted out upon him ; and heizing the Lappet of his Shirt, he would have cried out, as taking me for some Ghost, had not to punish him for his Evils, had not fear of a Discovery over-ruled his other apprehensions ; and indeed I soon made him understand I was not yet a damned spirit, by saying in a soft, though angry tone :

Oh Sir, have I caught you ! Are these the products of your Oaths and Promises ! Can the Current of your so often avowed Love soon run in another Channel ? Base perjured Man ! so quickly to relinquish her, your whose Affections your Subtilty has gained so entire a Conquest.

He thought at first his Wife had seiz'd him, and began to excuse himself, and begged pardon in the most humble and beseeching manner ; but I continuing to reproach him with Infidelity for his Maiden Obligation, and giving me so unexpected a Disappointment in the Height of my Expectations. He upon this, knowing my Voice, and finding what I drove at, dispersed his Fears, and made me believe he had an Inkling of our Intrigue, and had left his Bed at so unreasonable a time, when muttering some Threats between his Teeth, he flung from me, whilst I remained in much Surprise and Confusion, as greatly astonished and confounded at this double Misfortune, but recollected soon my fading Spirits, I went to

Bed, tho' I slept but little for ruminating on what had past in these unlucky Adventures.

My Master, it seems, went not directly to his Wife's Bed, but to my Spark's Chamber where rapping and calling twice or thrice at the Door, he put him into dreadful Apprehensions that all was discovered; so that had not the Iron Bars prevented, he had ventured his Neck, by leaping out of his Window, to escape the heavy Revenge he expected to fall on him; however, at last venturing to open the Door, with a Resolution to make an humble Confession and beg Pardon on his Knees, his Resolves were changed, when by the Light of the Moon he perceived his Master pale, and shivering like a Midnight-Ghost, all besmeared with Dust and stuck round with Feathers, only desiring he would give him one of his clean Shirts and hinting to him that he had been upon the Discovery of his Haunts that Night, he left him far more composed and satisfied than before, and so passed unto his Wife's Chamber, who was again fallen asleep, and dreaming of the pleasant Pastime that had befallen her by so strange an Adventure yet waking, dissembled at this time the Knowledge of his Absence.

My Disappointment, and the Affront, conceived with Indignation to be so delayed, made me yet restless, and in the Morning I upbraided my faithless Amorist with

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many Reproaches. He blush'd, but hid nothing from me, only begg'd my Pardon, since it was by Mistake, and consequently, as I fell out, not to be avoided; but for the future he would be more wary and constant: — But finding, tho' I allow'd him that Freedom he expected very frequently, I watched him so narrowly, that the further intrigues he had in secret nocturnal and diurnal Correspondences held with my Mistress, escap'd not my Knowledge; and the day appointed coming he shuffling and making further Delays and Demurs about our Marriage, I was resolv'd at one bold Blow to strike home; and accordingly having made my Spark fluster'd one Night, and ordered him with Love Posset, leaving him as fast as a Church. I stept into his Chamber with the Keys I had taken out of his Pocket, unlock'd his Trunks, and found the Diamond Ring, and other known Marks of my Mistress's Favour, which she had bestow'd on him for secret Service, and return'd unobserv'd. Next Morning being up early, and appearing melancholly, and much disturb'd, my Master observ'd it, and press'd me to tell him the Reason. I seem'd averse to comply with his Request, which made him the earnest in his Enquiry. After a while catching a deep Sigh or two, with some seeming Reluctancy, I drew the Ring and other Tokens, that were no Strangers to him, out of my Pocket, and letting fall some Tears,

Tears, told him, How my Mistress had not only wronged him but me, in too prodigally dispensing her Favours to his Man, who had promised me Marriage: But since his stolen Enjoyments with my Mistress, he, contrary to his Vows and Promises had declined it if not absolutely renounced me. My Master seemed at first difficult to believe this, never having observed any thing but a modest humble and virtuous Carriage in his Wife.

Seeing him pause and unresolved, I concluded it now time to go through with it and said, Sir, If you will not believe these visible Marks of Injury done you, do but feign an Excuse to be abroad this Morning and I will deliver the Adulterers into your Hands, as securely taken, as *Mars* and *Venus* were in *Vulcan's* Wyre-Net, invisibly spread to intrap those lustful Deities. To this he gave very attentive Ear, burning all the while with Anger and Fury, his Eyes, as it were, sparkling Fire; yet a little composing his Mind, he thank'd me for the Care I had for his Reputation, and promised to be ruled by my Directions, in discovering the Dishonour put on him; and so going up, and taking a dissembling loving Leave of his Wife, feigned Business abroad till three in the Afternoon, and shou'd not be at home till Dinner. She took no great Notice of what he said, but gave him a Kiss, and so they parted. My Master being gone out, as my fellow Spark supposed, he sneaked up Stairs, and

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pt into my Mistress's Chamber; where, his Stay, I plainly perceived he was not welcome.

Having them thus in a Trap, I ran to the Place where I knew I should find him, to inform him how it was. With the News, Anger and Revenge added Speed to his Feet; and forcing open the Door, found them in the same Posture he had been with his Partner's Wife a little before. Impatient of Delay, he dragg'd out his Man by the Heels, striking his Head and Buttocks come thump against the Ground, beating and kicking him at a most miserable rate, whilst he lay crying out sometimes *Mercy!* and sometimes *Murder!* His Wife, in the mean time, seeing the Death of her Minion, leaped out of Bed, and taking hold on her Husband, treated him to forbear; and since (continued she) you have been as guilty as we, in doing the like with Madam *Elnorea*; for which Dishonour to my Bed, I was resolved to take this Revenge, tho', at first, unwittingly; it will be Discretion in you to be secret, least you not only publish, unadvisedly your Shame, but ruin your Fortune. Upon this Discovery, he supposed his Wife had been a Witch, standing confounded and amazed in himself to consider how otherwise such a Secret should come to her Knowledge; and (to be brief whilst he a little suspended his Fury, my Spark crawl'd from under his unmerciful Clutches on all Four,

and getting to the Stair head, made, for haste, but one Step to the bottom, and tumbl'd Head over Heels down the other and ran out of Doors, with a Resolution of never returning; and indeed, afterwards, in the Terror and-Fright he was in going on Board a Ship setting Sail out of the Port, he was, within three Leagues of Land cast away upon a Rock: and so at last, his fiery Love to my Mistress and me, more or less, was quenched in the Ocean.

Upon his Departure, having the Keys had taken out of his Pockets, I rifled the Cash, took out five hundred Florins, besides other Things of Value that had been laid for considerable Sums, and in the Evening hid them in a Wood that stood about four Furlongs from the City, and so returned undiscover'd; when I found, my Master, after humble Submission, had taken my Mistress, as well as he could digest the Affront into Favour again. But this Revenge satisfy'd me not for the Loss of my Spark; for whose last Disaster, I could not, on second Thoughts, refrain shedding some Tears and therefore resolved the Mischief I had begun should go farther. Nor left I off, in the same manner my Master had taken his Man with my Mistress, himself was caught by Signior Elnorea in his Wife's Arms; altho' the injur'd Husband did not roughly use him at that time, only ranting at a distracted rate, as being too weak to

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apple with him, he grew discontented, and took a worse Revenge, by confessing a Judgment; which turned out my Master and Mistress to shift again in the wide world. The Creditors, upon Notice of what had happen'd, drawing off the Overseas Effects so hastily, that my Master found in vain to stand the Brunt; and so slipping what he could conveniently, stood away with his whole Family to the *West-Indies*; and what became of them there I am ignorant of; yet heard, That his injur'd Partner, soon after, seeing what he had done, the Loss of his Reputation and Credit in the World, ran distracted, and died in a raging Fit, exclaiming against his Wife's Disloyalty, as the Cause of all his Misfortune, and the only cross-wind that had shipwreck'd his Felicity.

Being thus, as I may say, disbanded by many Families going off in such Disorder and distraction; yet having Treasure enough to support me till I could find out other quarters, I took me a very sumptuous dwelling, where I became acquainted with *Flavius Dumaine*, a brisk young Man, whom I so much doated on, that I consented to a Marriage with him, tho' he was no more than a Blade of Fortune. He, in a little time, spent all my ill-gotten Wealth; my Wife running much in Debt, we were obliged to bid adieu to *Florence*; and in our Travelling, fell into the Hands of these Thieves; against

against whom fighting valiantly in my Defence, rather than his own, he was unfortunately slain, and I made a Prisoner. They at first used me very roughly, as their manner to all they take Captive, which they have now divers in several adjacent Dungeons, in Hopes of Ransoms from the Men; or training them up, by a compulsive Consent, in their Gang: And as for the Women, by Threats and fair Means they strive to bring 'em to a Compliance to their Lusts; which I, by the Service I do them, have hitherto avoided; as also the fair Lady, to whose Chastity our Captain lays strong Siege, by reason she protests to kill herself, if he violates it; so that he hopes to bring her to a better Temper. In his Mind, he has not hitherto used any Force, as knowing a constrain'd Enjoyment, Sullenness and Tears, can yield him but an imperfect Pleasure. At this the fair Stranger held down her Head and wept: And our Discourse at this time breaking off, the coming in of a petty Captain, with considerable Booty taken from Merchants and other Travellers, we retir'd to the safer Places; the Lady, thro' Fear and Bashfulness, our House keeper, about her Domestic Affairs, the better to keep up a Correspondence with her new Master, and I to avoid any Suspicion of my Intention to Escape.

*Different Ends did move a different Thought,
 Which my deep Projects to one Centre brought,
 To trap the Villains who us first had caught.*

}

C H A P. XI.

Hears the Complaint of this beautiful Captive in the Thieves Den ; with her Love-Story, and how she came thither, which so moved him to Compassion and Admiration, that he resolves to attempt, by one Means or other, to make his Escape, that he might work her Deliverance.

Perceiving this fair Stranger sigh, and often let fall Tears, I took the Opportunity to entreat the Favour of a Relation, how she was, and how she unfortunately came into this miserable Place? At first she stopt the Passage of her Language, but she could make me no Reply ; but I was earnestly pressing it, and promising if Heaven favour'd my Designs, to be instrumental in her Delivery from so horrible a Prison, and the Danger she was in among so wicked and unmerciful Associates, or her Tyrants, hourly threatening her with the Loss of her Chastity, if not of this Life ; upon this she looked on me with Eyes expressing her inward Languishment and Sorrow ; then taking me by the Hand, and often whispering me to set down by her on a Bench of Earth cover'd with dry Turf, letting fall some Tears, she said, Ah, Stranger!

may

may I trust thee with the Secrets of Grief? Is there any Fidelity to be found such a Place of Horror, where I see myself surrounded with nothing but my mortal Enemies? Could I believe thou wouldst lock up my Woes in Silence, and any way befriend me, I would most willingly do so. These Expressions concluding with a Sign, I perceived she took me to be one of the Gang; but I presently undeceiv'd her, declaring how I fell into their Hands, and how earnestly I desir'd to be rid of their Company. This made her a little clear, and the Clouds of Sorrow that eclipsed her Beauty, began to pass away, and leave the Heaven of her lovely Face in kind of Serenity; when making me swear to Secrecy, she thus began:

I am called (said she *Lucindan*, a Native of *Pavia*, tho' now my Father, a rich Merchant lives at *Naples*, on the Point of the Point of his Name *Paulus Urbinus*, of no mean Family in this Country, when I was fourteen Years of Age, going to be a Spectator of some Juests and other Pastimes, ordain'd in Honour for the Entertainment of our Viceroy on his Wedding-day, being marry'd to the beautiful *Alfrida Mendoza*, Daughter to the Grand Duke of *Tuscany*, I cast my Eyes, amongst the rest, on one of the Youths that maintained those Juests, whose Courage and Bravery surpass'd all the rest, overthrowing all that came before him, Horse and Man tumbling

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rolling on the Ground together confessedly where-e'er he directed his Launce, that the Shouts and Applause of the Field were all on his Side, till at last none durst any more encounter him. Upon which he retired out of the Lists to the side of the Stage, where myself, and a great many Ladies of Quality, were seated as Spectators, and taking off his Silver Helmet, flowing with a Plume of white Feathers, he, in a courteous manner, bowed himself to the bow of his Saddle. I no sooner beheld his lovely Face, and he, as I perceiv'd, had accidentally singl'd me out, and fixing his Eyes on mine, but we gazed one at another, without either of us being able, for a good while, to observe any other Objects; I must confess, with Blushes, that I was so smitten at the first Sight, that I am ashamed of my Weakness, and beg Pardon of my Sex, that I could resist the powerful Arrows of the Fardel of Love no longer; I struggl'd indeed against my Passion, and called in my Reason for my Assistance, but all would not do. He was likewise as restless and uneasy as myself, and giving his Armour to his Page, appeared yet more gallant and charming in his Green Coat, embroider'd o'er with golden Illies and Silver Stars; he left not Sight of me till he had follow'd my Chariot to my Father's Gate. I invited him with my Eyes, all that either he understood not their silent language, or thought it not convenient at

that time, but the next Day I receiv'd Note which had been deliver'd to the Maid that waited on me by a Page; and to induce her to be faithful in the Delivery of it she had twenty Florins crowded into her Hand. When I receiv'd it my Heart gave me from whence it came, and retiring with much Impatience, I read it, viz.

Fairest of Creatures,

W hose dazzling Eyes are the only two dazzling Suns that give Light to the Empire of Love, take Pity of a Stranger, who, at the first Sight of so much Beauty, was wounded in the Heart. Consider him whom no Arms could foil in the Field, dying and languishing for you and has not many Days to live your Votary, whose inexorable Death will put an End to the Life of him whom nothing but your favourable Answer can reprieve from going down to the gloomy Chambers of the Grave. 'Tis a Presumption indeed, that deserves a worse Punishment, for me to require it, having never done you any Service to merit so great a Favour; but knowing you are all made up of Goodness, I have presumed to implore it.

Your Unknown, but
Ever Constant Adorer,

LYSANDER

I read it twice or thrice, not knowing what I should do in this Matter; but mighty Love pleading on his side, I inforced my

Modest

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Modesty, and gratify'd him in so obliging a manner, that he seem'd, as he afterwards told me, to caper in Clouds, for the Lightness he found in his Heart. In fine, I agreed to give him a Meeting in a Neighbouring Grove, only accompany'd with my Maid. He receiv'd me there with all the Marks of Content, and extravagant Transports of Joy, bending, at his first Approach, his Knee to the Ground, with awful Respect and Reverence, as if I had been the titular Goddesses of those Shades. To be brief, we met often, and his Merits commanding my Love, I delay'd not to give him all the Assurance of my Love and Affection he requir'd; which never extended the Bounds of Modesty. I found him to be a younger Brother to a Noble Family in *Corduba* in *Spain*, and gave him leave to make known to my Father the Pretensions he made to me: But he being of a covetous Temper, and designing to match me to one richer, and well settled in the City of *Naples*, receiv'd his Proposals so coldly, that utterly despairing to gain his Consent, I resolv'd for once to be disobedient, which Fear has brought this Punishment upon me, promising to meet him one Evening in the Grove, and wholly resign my self to his Care, and the Conduct of his Love. As I was passing a Road about two Fields from it, I was surprized by four Horsemen with Vizards on, one of them alighting, set me up by Force before another

of them, and stopping my Mouth, to stop the Cries I began to make, brought me to this accursed Place, but by what Ways I know not, for through the Fright I fell into a Swoon, out of which, I recovered not, 'till safe housed. What the brave *Lyfander's* Thoughts are for my Absence, and unwillingly disappointing him, or how great the Grief of my Parents for my Absence, I know not; but sure I am, their Tears and Sorrows mingled in one Channel, cannot exceed mine, who am, to add more Affliction, persecuted here by a Lover I abhor.

She ended here, and a Shower of precious Drops, like young Diamonds in their Infant Dew, fell from her fair Eyes, which made mine overflow for Company. I, as melancholly as I was my self, promising presently to put in practice at the Hazard of my Life, something that might contribute to hers, as well as my own Deliverance.

*Pitying such Innocence and Beauty I
The utmost of my Skill resolv'd to try,
Either to set her free, or in attempting die.*

C H A P. XII.

How after having considered many ways to escape, he mounted the Smoak-Loft, or Chimney, cut in the Rock, where hiding himself to escape in the Night, by the sudden laying on of Fire, he was almost scorched to Death; and what means he used to prevent it; the Thieves Opinions thereupon. How he got free, and escaped a Party of Thieves, by falling into a Quarrey, and finding Lysander the fair Stranger's Love, after he had heard his Lamentation, he discovered the joyful News to him, &c.

Night now approaching, our wicked Masters began to flock home in small parties, few of them empty handed, and many Discourses passed between them of the Business of that Day, and what they designed the next; but I little minded the particulars. by reason I had more weighty matters, viz. to consider my Escape. I had observed the Door to be narrowly watched and guarded by two grim Fellows, in the nature of Porters; I thought sometimes to bribe them: for I had still some Gold in the Collar of my Shirt; but thinking if they should take my Money, they might however deliver me up to the Tormentors, for I took them to be People of no Faith nor Conscience, and then I should not only be narrowly watched. but my Condition much worse. At last I cast my Eye upon the little Smoak-Loft, which was a place cut through the Rock, among a great

many thick Trees, and it then strongly came into my Mind, that that was the way allotted by Providence for me to escape out of the Clutches of these wicked Ones, and so bent I was upon a Tryal, that I was impatient 'till I had put it in Practice. I made my Eyes very diligent Centinels, to observe when every Bodies Back was turned on me, and sneaking into the Corner, soon by the Help of one of the Crutches, or forked Stick, by whose Help the Spits were turned, ascended, as by a Ladder, 'till I was out of Sight: I found then a hollow Cavity, made by the mouldering away of the Rock, thro' the Heat of the Fire, and in this I stood up like an Image in a Cel or Shrine, to consider how I might in the surest manner take my next ascending Steps, for fear of falling or prevent Discovery, by tumbling down the loose Stones, I tried divers that were within reach to find their Fastness, the Earth being mouldered away between many of them, so that they hung by Geometry, like the Ruins of an old Town long since demolished by War, whilst I was doing this, the Day having been somewhat Rainy, a great Bundle of Wood was thrown on under me, to dry my new Masters, which first sent up a terrible Smoak, and which in a manner turned me into Bacon: But that, tho' very troublesome, was not so intollerable as the Heat that seconded it, when the Fewel began to blaze. In this miserable taking

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king I knew not well what to do, fearing the Flame ascended, I should now be sacrificed to *Molock* ; sometimes I thought to ascend, and put off my being there, with a pretence I only did it in a Frolick ; but knowing among such Villains I should gain little Credit as to being believed, whatever precious Pretences I suggested to palliate my intended Escape, and therefore upon second Thoughts, I resolved to stand it, tho' I suffered Martyrdom

I bethought my self in such a Conflagration, an Engine was necessary, and therefore pulled a little Spout I had out of my Breeches, and when I saw Opportunity, played it as long as the water in the Cistern would supply it, which somewhat lowered the proud Curls of the aspiring flame : I know not whether they perceived it or no, but imagined they did : For (says one of my companions) it rains very terribly abroad, and our companions will be wringing wet when they arrive : Yet construing it to the best, I concluded 'twas a wet Weather, part of the Showers were wont to descend there, but now my Cistern being dry, the Flame got head again, and put me into new perplexities ; I then began to beat, and blow upon the Smoak with my Hands and Breath, in such manner that it clouded their Cave, and made them remove further, when to my great Satisfaction I heard one say, Take off the Fire, the Wind is turned to the South, I perceive by the smoking of the Chimney, or we shall be quite roasted.

The consumed Fuel and Brands-ends, were hereupon immediately taken off and raked away, so that my fiery Tryal by this Means was over, and now all sooty and Smoak-dry'd, having taken little Breath, I attempted my climbing Business, and soon got to the Top, so that I could peep into the open Air : But here another Difficulty started me ; for tho' I could get my Head out, my Shoulders would not follow : I however pushed hard forward with all my Strength ; but finding I was like the Fellow in the little End of the Horn, I know not what to think of it : I trembled for Fear, and wept for Anger, and was almost at my Wits-end to be so near a happy Deliverance, and yet not procure it, but returned into worse Misery than ever ; therefore, Sampson like, redoubling my Strength, by a happy Providence the Stones that obstructed me, tumbl'd away and out I leaped with more Joy, than Drake when he first discovered the Spanish Plate Fleet.

Being now at Liberty, tho' in a Place of horrid Shade and Gloominess, (the Escape from one Danger, as is usual, made the other less terrible) I crept through the Quilts of Bushes and Briars without accusing them of their sharp Incivilities of scratching and renting my Flesh and Garments, 'till I supposed I was got about two Furlongs, and there I ventured quite tired, and out of Breath, to rest me a while, when immediately my Ears were saluted with the barking of Foxes, and the Howling of Wolves, so that I fancy now, I was in the Case of Aesop's Hart, who fly-

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g his cruel Hunters, fell into the Mouth of the
merciless Lion, by unadvisedly entering his Cave
or Shelter. I resolved however, since I had
as far proceeded, to make the best of my way;
and so pushing forward, within two Hours after,
came into a narrow way that descended on the
other side of the Mountain, which I descended
with so much Precipitation, that not minding my
steps, I tumbl'd into a deep Pit, and with the
all much bruised myself: But I know not whe-
ther I may call this a Misfortune or a Provi-
dence;—for whilst I lay groaning and struggling
to get on my Legs, I heard a great number of
horsemen pass by me, which by their Discourse
of Booty and Plunder, I concluded to be some of
their Out-Party returning to their Den. This,
withstanding the Pain I felt, made me lie as
still as a Mouse in a Chase, 'till I heard all qui-
et; then took the Boldness, by the Assistance of
loose Stones sticking out of the sides of the Pit,
to get on upper Ground once more, blessing my
stars that I had, by this unexpected Accident,
escaped falling into their Hands; and so trudg-
ing on, as Day began to break, I entered upon
very fair and pleasant Fields, and had the Pros-
pect of some little Villages at a Distance, which
restored more Life and Spirit into me. Towards the
nearest of these, I made as fast as my tired Legs
could carry me, in Hopes of some Refreshment,
and by the way ascending a little Hill, I perceiv-
ed on my Right Hand, under a little Turf of
earth, a Cave, and in the Door of it, a very
lonely Person sitting very melancholly; his
Thoughts

Thoughts were so employed, that his Eyes were not at leisure to mind me approach him. I at first knew not what to think of it; Fear made me suggest this might be another of the *Banditti's* Dens, which made me edge out of the way, as much as I could, for a large River that run on my left Hand; at last I heard him sigh aloud and cry out:

O unfortunate *Lyfander*! thus to be forsaken by my visible Divinity, the fairest, and as I concluded, the most vertuous and constant Creature that ever Nature made! Who could have suspected Breach of Promise from a Mouth that always before believed spoke Oracles, and that nothing but Verity could proceed from those ruby Lips! But what should be the Occasion of this new Change or Dislike I know not. The most beautiful *Lucinda* is fled from her *Lyfander*, who adored her next to that Deity who governs the World, and all Humane Affairs; and what is more intollerable and tormenting to my distracted Mind, perhaps she is fled into the Arms of some sordid Wretch who knows not how to prize and esteem so rare and valuable a Jewel. But why (continued he, fetching a deep Sigh) since she flies from me with such Neglect and Disdain, and bears with her my Heart, as a Trophy of her Spoil, should I not, after such Loss and Disgrace disdain to live? Death after such a Loss is the only welcome Mistress that can ease the disturbed Passions of Mind. Well come then (said he, starting up in a furious Action, and drawing his Sword) art thou

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And here he had died had I not stept in and intreated him to live, for that I had so welcome a Reprieve for him, that after he knew from whom I came, he would not desire to die.

My sudden Intrusion made him frown, and cast an angry Scarlet o'er his Face, which gave him so terrible an Aspect, tho' otherwise very comely, that I could scarce look on him with stedfast Eyes. He seeing me stand mute and in amaze, broke Silence. *Whoe'er thou art (said he) young Stripling, thou deservest the Death thou would'st preserve me from, for presuming to add more Tortures, in desiring me to retain a loathed Life, than a thousand Deaths can give me. —* Seeing him recollected, and resolved to perish by his own Hand, I found it now no time to dally but said, Sir, I beg your Pardon for my Intrusion; but praised be Heaven, I hope its Seasonableness was directed by the Hand of Providence. Did you not (continued I) name Lucinda — I did (said he, with up-lifted Hands and Eyes) I named the fair, but false Lucinda; and thereupon some Tears, in Spite of all his Courage, trickled down his manly Cheeks. *She lives (said I) lives for Lyfander if you be he.* At this starting to me, he claspt me in his Arms so hard, as if in a Convulsive Fit, crying out, O my good Angel, speak those blessed Words again; let those blest Sounds o'er-joy my Ears and Heart; do's Lucinda live, and live for me? She do's (said I) and there-

upon told him all she had told me in the Cave; but in the telling I perceived him so transported, that he was ready to sink under the Excess of Joy, which quite overbore all the Hazards and Dangers of recovering her; his Eyes, by Intermissions, sparkling Fire of Rage, and Tongue Threats of Revenge against her Injurers; then he clapt a Ruby Ring on my Finger, gave me Gold, drew his Horse out of the Cave, where he had stood undiscover'd; made me mount behind him, and with a Whirl-wind's speed posted to *Naples*, by well known ways, to engage his Friends, and all the Power he could make for the speedy rescuing his adored Mistress from those rude Villains Hands; and the more eager he was in it when I told him what Danger she was in of being forced to the lawless Lust of the cruel Captain of those Thieves; taking in this the same Measures I intended, resolving, for the Injury they had done me, in separating me from my Master, the scurvy Usage they shewed me afterward, to bring those upon them, that should drive out this pernicious Nest of Hornets with Sword and Fire.

*That those who plagu'd the World might justly feel,
For bloody Injuries, revenging Steel.*

C H A P. XIII.

he conducts *Lyfander* at the Head of a Company of Armed Men, to the dreadful Cave in the Rock. Of the dreadful Battle fought between them; in which the *Bar-ditti* were utterly destroyed; with an Account of the valourous Exploits of *Lyfander*; his rescuing the fair *Lucinda*, and being married to her at *Naples*.

Being come to the City of *Naples* about Noon, the Noble *Lyfander* immediately went to the Viceroy's Palace, who governs here for the King of Spain, and making himself known to him, told him the Condition of his Distress, imploring immediately be assisted with a convenient Number of armed Men, as might utterly root out those Enemies to the Government, and all the civiliz'd Part of Human Society. To this he hearkned with much Patience and Concern for the publick Good. Then I was called and taken to strict Examination, the better to discern whether my Report was true or feign'd: I told them all the Circumstances attending my first falling into the Hands of those thieves, and Usage to the time of my Escape, and luckily for the injured *Lyfander*, declaring each Particular with such Vehemency and innocent Expressions, that I gained Belief. The next Thing demanded of me, was, Whether I could discover the Place of their Abode? This indeed put me somewhat to a Stand, yet I recollecting my self, told them I believed I could, or

give

give a very near Guess at it, which with little Search might be rectify'd. Hereupon two hundred Men well appointed with Swords and Fire-Arms, were ordered to be in a readiness, and the impatient Lyfander joyned to them as many of his Friends as the little Time would give him Opportunity to do. We took our March as secretly as might be, without the Beat of Drums or any martial Instruments of Musick; so that by Break of Day I had guided them to the Foot of the Mountain, and it so luckily happen'd, that their Captain and the greatest part of them were then together, it being an appointed Day for dividing the Booties they had taken: However some of their Out-scouts discovered us, and gave the Alarm. Upon which these daring Fellows blowing a Horn gave the Signal to their Arms and came out and faced our Troops; long it was not e'er a terrible Firing on both sides ensued and many Men mingled with Horses lay weltring in their Blood. Lyfander enraged or inspired with Love and Fury, broke thro' the thickest of them, charging thro', or beating down all that came before him, in such a dreadful manner that they began to give Ground, tho' they fought like Lions, as knowing this to be their last Effort; their Captain storm'd and bann'd the Skirmishers at a dismal rate, yet finding himself over-matched, in the midst of War and Fury, he forgot not his Love towards the fair Lucinda and order'd some that nearly attended him to fetch her out of the Cave, that if possible he might escape with that precious Prize at least: But

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tal Powers ! how infinitely did Rage tran-
rt Lysander, when he saw his adored Mistress
the Hands of those Men who endeavour'd to
rry her away in spite of her Cries and Resistance,
d delivering her into the Arms of their Cap-
in, who was retired a little out of the Files of
ar, well armed and mounted, to receive and
ar her off. Certainly all the Words in the World
e not sufficient to represent his Fury ; he was so
imated by that Sight, that all their Force, were
t able to resist him ; he slew most impitiously on
em, and turning towards him, that with out-
retched Hands was ready to receive her, he
ought down his Sword so forcibly on his Arms,
at they fell both together from his Body to the
ground : His Companions seeing him receive
at Stroke, and fearing such another, quitted
r ; but scarce had they disburthen'd themselves
that glorious Weight, and he thereby freed
om the Fear of wounding her by a random
roke but with a reverse Blow he took off ano-
er's Head, and made it rowl Cask and all on
e bloody Ground, and after this Execution,
eaking in among the rest that stood wavering
nd consulting of Flight, like a Tempest he over-
orew them in Heaps ; so that from retreating
ey betook themselves to open Flight, and being
rly pursu'd they entred into a Marsh full of
ry'd Reeds, by known ways, about a Quarter
f a Mile from the Mountains ; which being en-
compass'd and fired on every side, most of them
ere burnt, or drown'd in attempting to swim
ver a River that border'd on it, and just with

Water by several Sluices. The Fight being over, and the Pursuit ended, we returned to the Spoils, which upon Search of their Cave we found to be very great, consisting of Gold and Silver Vessels, Silks, and divers Merchandize, for this was the general Storehouse to which they brought such Things as they got by Plunder; and in more curious searching we found the Female Housekeeper, who, for fear, hid herself in a Well, dangling as near the Water as she durst venture in a Bucket; we drew her up, and I prevented her further Fears, by interceding for her: Whereupon she led us to some not yet discover'd Apartments, where we found more Treasure, and deliver'd divers miserable Captives of either Sex, almost starved and famish'd to Death, and being assured by her, there is nothing more in the Place than what we had seen, we marched off with the Trophies and Spoils of Victory and Revenge.

It is impossible for me to express the Joy and Satisfaction the two Lovers conceived at their so unexpected Meetings; their Embraces spoke the Transports of their Souls in a Dialect above the Power of Rhetorick or Oratory, to explain. In fine, having rid the Country so successfully of this Plague that had so long infested it, we returned to the City through the thronging Crouds of the shouting People; and the Father of the fair *Lucinda* understanding the

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Misfortune of his Daughter, and the Merit of her renowned Deliverer, upon the Vice-Roy's Recommendation, consented to the Marriage, which was celebrated with great Joy and Triumph, and I was caressed, and highly rewarded for my seasonable Discovery.

Here good Success attends me ; but the next shows me out-trick'd, defeated, robb'd and vext ; and, more than ever, leaves Ragoue perplext. }

C H A P. XIV.

Now travelling towards Rome, and observing various Matters in his Way, he is imposed on in his Inn by a Company of Bravo's, and their Trulls. How in the Night, thinking all safe, he hears a Cry of Thieves and Murder in his Room : Is whipt, robb'd, and has other Roguish Tricks put upon him, &c.

Liv'd some time happily in the City of Naples, and loath was *Lysander* to part with me ; but being of a rambling Genius, and now I was abroad, desirous to travel, and see more of the World, I begg'd leave to depart in seeking new Adventures, and in hopes of better Luck than had before beset me : *Lysander* at my Departure bestowed a pile of Gold on me, and the fair *Lucinda*, a very rich Jewell ; and with much Regret, they dismissed me.

Leaving this City, and having heard how famous Rome was for its Antiquity, and its present

sent Grandeur, I resolv'd to travel thither; but hearing that the Ways that lead to it, by reason of the great Resort of People, and Booties to be met withal, were pester'd with Thieves and Pillagers. I was resolv'd to trudge it partly on Foot, and partly by the Waggon-Coaches, which they call their Sieges Volants, as I found Opportunity to meet with in Inns, or on the Road when most wearied: And so provided me a Suit of ordinary Cloaths, the less to be suspected. I set out on Monday in the Morning, having taken Notice of Directions for my nearest Cut; and in my Passage observed the Houses of many noble Families stand tottering, decayed and uninhabited, by reason of their Owners Extravagancy had reduced them to that Poverty they were not able to maintain them. When Evening came on, I went to a pretty handsome Village, and enquired for Lodging, finding by the Resort in an Inn there that I should not miss of some considerable Entertainment. So that being admitted a Tenant at Will, I walked about 'till Supper-time.

In the mean while, the Inn-Keeper enquired my Name, saying it was the Custom of the Place that he might give the better Account of his Guest, though afterwards to my Cost, I found it was to another Purpose. For no sooner was I sat down, and had call'd for a Can of Florence Wine, and the Servants not presently answering, two Bravos and a Trull came and placed themselves at the same Table, and bringing Wine with them, drank to me, they had seen me be

fore

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; but e, it seems, pull out some Money, as cau-
reason as I was to conceal it, and so conclu-
to be the Reckoning safe enough. I conti-
Pilla- ed however still to call the Servant; but
Foot- h a great many Complements they assu-
b they me they were all my Servants: *As we*
portu- ntinued they) *shall testify by our Endeavours*
when blige you. And thereupon cry'd, *Ho! Ma-*
of or of the House, make this Gentleman Wel-
et out e: Set open your Pantry-door and Cupboards,
Notes we'll see you well paid. Then one of them
y Pass- ng his EYES more intent on me, leap'd
Fami- r the Table to embrace me, saying, O
ed, by nsieur Ragoue! who would have thought to
redu- e seen you here! It's ten Years since I had the
ple to our to pay my Respects to you. He spoke
ent to in French as knowing by my Tone, I
for of that Nation: And whilst, whether
there- ould call him to mind or not (for it came
e En- into my Memory, that I had ever seen
enan in my Life) he passionately cry'd out, *O*
ch that I am, I now see I am much altered,
nqui- you have forgot me. He being here non-
om of t how to go on, up comes the other, and
r Ac- h as great seeming Admiration, said to
to my Companion, Is this that Gentleman's
pose whose worthy Deeds in Feats of Arms,
cany have so often extolled to the Skies?
e Ser- ly we are happy we have met thus acci-
avo- tally with him: He's grown pretty tall,
es a- blefs him.
with his kind of Discourse had almost con-
e be- ded me; for by it, one would have
fore gone

gone near to have thought, they had been born in the same House, and bred up with me; yet I very seriously assured them, I could not remember I had ever seen any of them in my Life. No! (said they, as struck with Admiration) that is very strange as it should be alter'd so much in so little a time. Then I began to ask them some Questions, which I was certain they could not positively Answer: So that their Trull fearing they would be gravelled, dashed them off with saying, I see the Gentleman has forgot you; therefore lay this Discourse aside for another time, since Supper is just entering the Table. She had no sooner said so, but up they started, and began to place the Chairs, straining Complements with me, and sit at the upper End, which all my Rhetoric and Refusals could not avoid.

By this time the Table being covered with Dishes, of a kind of strange Variety, tho' but very little Meat in them: They fell on with Stomachs like Famine it fell, and when they (for though I was hungry, I could eat but little for gazing on such Gomondizers) had almost devoured all, in came three more of the same Tribe, with each of them a lean shrivel'd Serving Man, who thought them, at their Tails. These taking Acquaintance with the Bravo's and the Mort, they invited them to sit down, and thundered for more Provision, which was quickly brought up; and so they fell on

fre

h, and my Host forgot not to score it :
 when the Fury of the Business was over,
 found we had, as my Host was pleased to
 re it, five Chequins of Gold, amounting
 twenty French Crowns, to pay. At this
 y stared on each other, and held a pro-
 nd Silence, while I was fumbling in my
 ket, in Expectation of the Birth of
 untains, but when they saw I only brought
 h a Mouse, viz. as much as came to my
 re, one of them started up, and protest-
 should be excused for my Father's sake.
 I not willing to be beholding, as indeed
 y never intended I should, to such Com-
 ions, least for this Civility, they should
 e further End on me, pressed them to ac-
 t of my Dividend, saying, if they did
 k convenient, I would pay more at last.
 ir Trull taking the Wink, said, Come,
 e, what need all this ado ! Let the Gen-
 an, if he so pleases, present us with this
 ll Treat, and do you give him a larger
 his taking his Farewell in the Morning.
 ed not this Proposal ; so that at last we
 ed, I, and the two first Bravo's, to throw
 e to end the Controversy, which of us
 ld pay the whole Shot ; you may be
 it fell to my Share, for they so manag'd
 Business, that putting the Change up-
 me, the Dice they threw with, run all
 es and Sixes, and mine Fives and Fours ;
 ch I perceiving, and going to detect it,
 r Mort snatched them up, and by the
 Art

Art of *Hocus Pocus*, changed them into regular ones; so that I had the Voice of the whole Board against me, insomuch, that I was condemned to pay the Reckoning. The dissembling Villains vowed and protested, they had rather it had fallen to either of their Lots, to have the Honour of troubling me, with large Promises, what good Things they would do the next Morning to make me amends. I dissembled my Discontent as well as I could; and they perceived I would not engage in Gaming, but counterfeiting Drowsiness, and desirous to be alone. The Company broke up, and I was shewed my Lodging. I had, as I thought, a Chamber to my self, but was fatally mistaken. What I took for a Wall, was only a Curtain that parted it.

Before I went to Bed, I took care to barricade the Door with old Trunks, Stools, and Chairs, but never minded what a way Back I had to my Apartment: And soon going to Bed, as soon as my two Inches of Candle were burnt out, I fell asleep, but soon awaked, with a capering up and down the Room, an an Out-cry of Murther, Thieves. Upon this I leaped out of Bed and run to the Door to see whether it was fast or not; and finding nothing removed I wondered how the Noise should be in the Room, unless the Place was enchanted: as I was about to remove the Barrocades, and run and raise the House, I found my self

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circled with a Horse-Whip, which at every
lash, I thought had cut me in two, and
made me roar out as loud as the other had
done. And indeed I had greater Cause; for
since concluded theirs was only in Jest and
fine down right Earnest, for they were
worse than Bridewell Strokes, still circling
my Waist and Shoulders, I flew to my Bed,
thinking to get under the Cloaths for a Re-
freshment, but found they were taken away; so
that I had no other Shelter than to creep
under it. In the mean while, some Body had
been lying just in the middle of my Couch, and
had the Cloaths on again: And by this time
the Inn-Keeper, the better to colour the Bu-
siness, came thundering at the Door, de-
manding what the Cause was of Clamour at
such an unreasonable time of Night. Where-
upon I heard one or two leap out at the
Window into a Back-Yard, and the Noise of
the Whip ceased: And by this time my Host
rumbled open the Door, or unlocked it with
another Key, and was entred with a Light,
dragging his Ostler and Tapster at his Heels;
and running hastily forward, being a huge
two-handed Fellow, he beat me over and
over. I thought now they were come to
show me the Italian Trick, which I had
learned in my own Country, viz. To cir-
cumcise my Jugulars with a Razor, or pink
my Jacket with a Ponyard; which put me
to a greater Fear than before: After hav-
ing rowled about with me a little while,
and

and pretending to know by my Voice who was, he kindly raised me up, and begged Pardon; saying, He took me for one of the Thieves. But I afterwards understood the Cause of this pretended Error, was to give these Hell-Hounds Opportunity to see whether the others had made clear Work with my Pockets, or to take the Gleanings. I took this Apology however in good part, knowing not how to help it, he then took me by the Hand, and led me under the Curtain Partition, where I unexpectedly found two Beds, in one of them, was one of Bravo's and his Mort, whom he called Wife; and in the t'other, the other, who had supped with me, they lamentably complained of the Stripes they had received. The Devil take the Rogues (said they) they have flea'd our Skins. I had like (said first that opened his Mouth) to have caught one of them; he narrowly slipped through my Hands, but I reached his Buttocks with the Point of my Ponyard, as he was leaping at the Window, and gave him a Mark for his Roguery. Upon this, the Host and Men, promising to sit up and watch the mainder of the Night, weary and much out of Order, I got me again to Bed, and presently fell asleep, without perceiving the Bedfellow I had gotten. My Sleep was not however so sound, but I often turned from one side to another, insomuch, that when I awaked, I found my self anointed over with Pilgrims Salve.

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As soon as Day appeared, they all came to my Bed-side to utter their mutual, tho' assembled Complaints; I kept close, and answered them but little, desiring to lie longer, for I had but little Sleep that Night: they knew as well as I the Cause of my delay, and therefore out of Courtesie, as they said, began to move the Bed-Cloaths to cover me better; which so scented the Chamber, that they were forced to hold their Noses, and retire at some Distance. The Host, who knew what was done, immediately came and desired me to rise, for that the Gentlemen who had travelled all Night, were come in weary, and desired to refresh themselves a while. I knew not well what excuse to make, but feigned to swoon away; whereupon they raised me up, and bent my fingers so hard, under Pretence of recovering me, that they pulled two of them out at last, at last I perceived all was discovered, and it could be no longer hid, out I jumped, and stunk 'em to an awful Distance. My Host perceiving how finely the Sheets were soiled, tho' I made many Excuses, began to tumble like a Dog between two Doors, fearing he would have Satisfaction for the loss of his Linnen, but the two Bravo's interceeding on my Behalf, that such a Misfortune, in such Frights, might happen to the best of Gentlemen, he seemed to be pacified, and ordered me a Tub of Water to scald my self in, after I had for some time

lain battling in my Dung; which being placed under the Pump, they pump'd so fast on me, that I was almost stifled. This put me in Mind how I had served my old Master who was here in some measure revenged. But oh! the miserablest Part was yet behind when I came to look for my Cloaths, they were vanished, together with all my Money &c. at this I cried out with a lamentable Voice, I was undone, I had lost four hundred Crowns in Gold, besides Rings and Jewels of as great Value. At this they began to stare as if they scarcely gave Credit to what I said, but I continuing to affirm it, they swore in a seeming great Rage, they would find out the Rogues, tho' they went to a Conjuror, and so left me in a naked Condition, to the Mercy of my Host, I never seeing them more; tho' I believe they need not have consulted the Devil to know who robbed me, no more than they might have doubted going to him themselves when they died.

*But by those Tricks perhaps I may gain Wit,
 'T enable me, Rogues in their kind to fit;
 He ne'er can Bite well, that was never Bit.
 Rogue go on then, in thy swift Career,
 And make thy Roguery imminent appear,
 That all may wonder, when thy Pranks they hear.*

Being thus gulled and cheated of all I had but those Pistoles I sowed up in the Collar of my Shirt, I begged to have an old Fro

to cover me, which I could not obtain, till they see I had ript out some Treasure : At which Sight my Host grinned, and applauded my Policy, in making some Reserve in the time of Danger ; tho' I doubt not but at the same time he wished his Com-rogues had stript me to the Skin, that I might have no Place suspected to hide a Silver Spangle : For it is past all peradventure, but he came in for the largest Snack, and lived mostly by the Practice of such Vermin ; but being in a strange Place, unskilled in the Laws of the Country, and not knowing how to remedy my self, I was obliged to be silent, and in haste to be gone out of so wicked a House ; wherefore sending for a Taylor, he fitted me with some Second-hand-Cloaths, at a moderate Rate ; so having returned the Frock, and disposed of a Crown or a double-dyed Hat, not worth twelve pence, with some small Expences to the House, I departed with a heavy Heart ; when having got some Miles distant, down I sat me down by a Wood-side, to bemoan my Misfortunes ; but finding no boot to stay here, up I got, and trudged on my intended design.

*For being made Fortune's Tennis-Ball, I thought
My Way lay best, where most was to be got.*

C H A P. XV.

How going to a Gentleman's House, he undertook to lye in a Room where a dreadful Ghost was fancy'd to appear and how personating himself, he frighted a whole Table of Gamesters away, and swept up the Stakes they lay behind for Haste, with which he replenish'd his empty Pockets.

RESOLVED, if I could help it, to lye more in a Roguish Inn, when Day was near spent, I made up to a very fine ancient Building, where at some Distance my Eyes were saluted with Musick, and merry Songs which made me hope for good Entertainment, (it being in those Countries a Sign of good House-keeping) I therefore set a good Face on it, and went to the Door, demanding if the Master of the House was within. He thereupon came, as being within hearing, and asked, What I would have? I told him, being a Stranger in those Parts, and having been ill used upon taking up Quarters in Publick Houses, I would intreat him to spare me a Lodging that Night. He answered me mighty civilly, but said, he feared he could not; for it being the Anniversary of his Wedding-Day, he had divers Friends there, and knew not but most of 'em might stay all Night. I continued to press my Suit, and told him some of my Misfortunes. Seeing me a likely young Man he told me he had one Room he knew no Body would lie in, which he could well spare.

pare, but if I accepted that, I might perhaps fall into greater Misfortune than I had yet done, for that it was nightly haunted with a Spirit, ever since his Grandfather's Barber, for Love of a coy Chamber-Maid, had cut his Throat in it, and that the Spirit appeared at usual times with a Razor in one hand, a Bason and Light in the other; crying in a hoarse Tone, *Will you be shaved?* And some that we have ventured, unknown to them, to lie there, have been for refusing to suffer him to shave them, thrown violently out of their Beds, and bruised at a strange Rate.

I heard very attentively this Relation, but having always a strong Fancy that these Reports of Apparitions were only Delusions and Fancies of whimsical Brains, or Men in Drink, I with much obliging Language told him, That if he pleased, I would accept of his Proffer, notwithstanding the dreadful Report he had made, and knew not, but by an Art I had learned, I might pay this poor disturbed Ghost to rest; that he should be confined to the lower Shades, and wander about the World no more. At this he appeared altogether yielding, inviting me in, and caused me after we had discoursed a little whence I came, and whether I was going, to enter the Parlour, and make merry with the rest of the Company; and at Supper-time told them for what I came thither, and what I had undertaken. They

all wondered that I durst venture upon it, some dissuaded me from it, as a thing too full of Presumption, and Danger : Some again laughed in their Sleeves to think what Sport they should have in the Relation of this Adventure next Morning, but they had little Cause as it fell out, tho' they did so. Supper being ended, they adjourned into a large old fashioned Hall, and fell to Cards and Dice.

Seeing them set in, and the Stakes thrown down briskly, a merry Crotchet came into my Head, and retiring desired one of the Servants, for that I was weary with long Travel, to shew me up to my appointed Lodging : The Fellow, tho' a lusty Lubber gave me a Candle, but durst venture no further than the Stair Foot, and there wishing me a Good-night, stood listening a little and then departed : I shut the Door, and expected the frightful Goblin, but he gave me none of his Company : Wherefore least he should be missing in the Family, I resolved to personate him. Thus concluding, I rubb'd my Face over with the White of the Wall, to make me represent a Ghost the more exactly ; then with one of my Garters tying a Sheet with a Knot to place just upon my Head like a Shroud, I stript me of my Shirt and Drawers, and laid my Cloaths decently on the Bed, the sooner to whip it after this Exploit : A Razor I had in my Pocket, and to make it look more terrible

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cut my Finger, and bloodied it over ; but being at a Loss for a Basin, I at last concluded the Pewter-Chamber-Pot, by the glimmering of Candles, and in a Fright, might be taken for it, as well. In this Posture I waited, till I heard by their Noise and Rattling of Money, the Wine was got into their Crowns ; then softly descending in the same Posture as the other had been described to appear, I found them so busie at their Game, that I was in a manner at their Backs, when one of the Servants that attended, looking up, and spying me, started ten Paces back, crying out, *Oh ! the Ghost ! the Ghost !* and so ran out, stumbling head-long over the Threshold ; I immediately extending my Piss-pot, and bloody Razor, seconded him with crying out in a hoarse and dreadful Tone, *Will you be shaved ?* Upon this they all started up without any regard to their Money that lay on the Table, and tumbled over each other for haste, as if they had bid the Devil take the hindmost ; and happy was he that could tread over another to get before him. I still pursued them in the same dreadful Time, till I had quite cleared the Hall and adjacent Rooms of every Soul of them ; some got into the Cellars, and others into the Stables and Out-houses, sculking and hiding themselves ; Fear charming many of them in those Places as enchanted Castles, till Day-light appeared, and banished the Bugbears of nightly Fancy.

I upon this, returned to the deserted Spoil, and pretty well lined my Pockets taking this as a Providence to make up in some part, my Loss at the Inn, and so returned to Bed as softly as could be, and putting out my Candle, I soon perceived how this Error came: There was an old doated Post in the Room, that looked whitish, or shining in the Dark, and the Wind blowing then a Pent-House of thin Boards just over the Window, swaying too and fro, made such a kind of a Noise, as seemed to imitate *Shave*; and no doubt the Drunkenness, or Fear, of such as lay there, had improved the dreadful Consequences of it, by leaping out of Bed, and hitting themselves against the Bed-Posts, or tumbling on the Floor. The next Morning, they were not so much vexed that the supposed Goblin had carried away their Money, as for an ill Report, if I should be murdered; for they concluded no less, seeing the Razor all bloody, but when they ventured to call me at the Stair-Foot, and I assured them I was not yet dead, (tho' in a faint Voice, for I had cut off some of my Hair, and one side of my Beard, to make it more passable) they rejoiced, and desired me to leave my Purgatory. I soon descended, and upon their Requests, gave them a very dreadful Relation, how at first refusing to let him shave me, he attempted to cut my Throat, but I so guarded it with my Hands, that he only cut my Finger, and having

done

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done what they saw, passed away from me, as I thought, down Stairs, and returned soon after in the same Posture, ratling something in or about his Hands, like Chains. *A Pox* (says one of them) *a plaguy Toad of a Ghost; that was our Money he stole off the Table then: I have often heard those Goblins discovered hidden Treasure for the Advantage of others, but never that they coveted it before. It may be said the Master of the House, half smiling) Some of your Fathers owed him for Trimming in his Life-time, and now he came to you for their Quarteridge.* Upon this, they all burst out laughing, but I somewhat better pleased them, especially those of the Family, when I told them, I heard him mutter as he passed out at the Casement, that his Time of wand'ring abroad in the World was now expired, and this was the last time he should appear; insomuch that I was invited to stay the next Night, to see if he would be as good as his Word, but fearing when they had better recollected their scattered Senses, they might see into the Trick I put upon them, they could oblige me to no more, than to take a Breakfast with them, and so being a little liberal to the Servants, I parted, laughing in my Sleeve to think, what such a Frenzy, as a suggested Fear, tho' ever so groundless, can throw Men's Minds and Wits into.

CHAP. XVI.

How coming to Rome, he fell into the Company of strolling Players, Fiddlers, and Dancing-Masters; and of a pleasant Adventure that befell; with the Downfall of their Custard-Supper. Also another comical Adventure in the Play-House, and how he left them.

AFTER a tedious Travel, without meeting with any Adventure worthy of Note, I came to the Suburbs of the *Seven Hill'd City*, and thought it best there, for Cheapness and Conveniency, to take up my Quarters, without entring the Gates, lest coming so late a Stranger thither, I might be taken for a Spy, there being an Army of Frenchmen then at *Mantua*, and no good Understanding between the Pope and the Crown of *France*.

Long I had not enquired of the Women that sold Herbs and Fruit, who had their little Stalls under the City Wall, but they directed me to a pretty compact House, tho' of no Largeness, where I found divers merry Pot-Companions, heating their Noses with good Liquor, 'till they looked like the lighted Ends of Charcoal, amongst these honest Topers I sate me down. (For indeed the low Rooms were but few :) The greatest part of this Company I perceived consisted of strolling Players, Fiddlers and Dancing-Masters, as by their Catches, throwing out Fragments of old Plays, capering and scraping, my Judgment soon inform'd

me,

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me, and as I conjectured, so I found it.) Being very needy, as most of those kind of Men are; they were very sweet upon me, especially when they knew I was a New-comer, but Experience taught me to be as shy of them, as an Alderman is of a Courtier's Treat, when he suspects it is only a Bait layd to hook him in for a Sum of Money without a Mortgage; however, we drank about pretty briskly, 'till one of them tipt me the Wink, to step aside with him, and what should it tend to, but to tell me he was just stepping up to Supper, and if I would go with him, I should be welcome. I knew not well what to think on it, but Hunger prompting me, we stole as it were from the rest. We were no sooner got into the Chamber, and our Victuals not presently coming up, but to divert me the while, he proceeded to act in Gestures and Expressions, some Fragments of a Tragedy, made upon a Scythian King, who flying thro' a Forrest with his Queen, was himself, after a stout Resistance, seiz'd on, and got under the Feet of a Bear. It seems he had acted this Part, and just as the Wench was coming up with a Dish of Custards which he had ordered for his Supper, the Poetick Rapture took him in the Noddle, and fancying himself in the Bear's Clutches, he thus, in a passionate and very earnest Tone, besought his Queen to save herself by Flight:

O fly

*O fly ! my Queen, from this devouring Bear;
 Let it suffice, be me alone do's tear :
 O save thy self, the bloody Bear's Jaws fly ;
 Why should'st thou, whilst thou may'st escape him, dye ?
 O haste, be gone ; or thy Death too, is nigh.*

The Maid being by this time at the Stair head, in a great Fright, concluded that some Bear broke loose, was got into the Chamber a worrying him, and that it was to her that he spoke so eagerly to save herself; least the Beast having made but half Supper of him, she should come in for the second Coarse to make up his Meal; and thereupon made but one Leap down Stairs yet tumbling Head over Heels at the bottom beat all the Custards in Pieces, and lying with her Coats over her Head, her bare Buttocks and Heels up the Stairs, she fancy'd the Bear would now soon have her by the Breech; which made her roar out lamentably for Help.

Being taken up, all imbrued in, and almost blinded with Custard, and demanded of her how this Disaster came to pass, *Oh ! (said she) for the Love of God don't stand asking of Questions, but Arm, Arm, and run up quickly to the poor Gentleman's Rescue, whom, a monstrous Bear, come from I know not whence, is now tearing in Pieces, and eating.* Upon this, tho' somewhat startled, they catch'd up what Weapons came first to hand, and up Stairs they ran, rushing in upon us in a very

furiously

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furious manner, that I knew not what to think should be the Meaning of it, till they all cried out in a Breath, *Where's this Bear ? Where's the Bear, that the Maid says was worrying a Man ?* The Player as he could be heard, assured them it was only a Mistake of the Maid's, who had heard him perhaps repeating such a Passage of a Play, and by her Fear suggested it a Reality. This occasioned much Laughter in the House ; but we had the least Cause ; for by it we had the bad luck to lose our Custards, and forced to take up with a few hard boiled Eggs.

It growing late, I was conducted to my Lodging, and made all fast about me, remembering how I had before been served, and indeed slept the quietest that Night, of any I had done since my setting out.

Being up indifferent early in the Morning, I took a turn into the spacious City and spent the time till Dinner, in viewing its Order and Situation, and perceived that of ancient *Rome*, little but Ruins remained ; the City now in quest consisting of new Foundations, for the greatest part : For the Pope making the amplest Figure there, they all covet to crowd and build near his Palace ; yet there is several of the ancient Monuments remaining ; as of *Pompey's Theatre* ; *Trajan's Statue on Horse-back* ; some Remains of the Capitol, where the strong Castle of *St. Angele* is founded, and many other things I remarked, too tedious here to be inserted.

inserted, till wearied in so large a Space, and my Stomach told me it was time to provide for it, home I went, where I found my last Night's Companion cooking a good Dish of Fish; I desired to put in with him, and he quickly granted my Request.

Dinner being ended, he asked me if I would not go and see their Play that Afternoon. I told him with all my Heart. But I had better kept away, for I narrowly escaped a Mauling. It seems this Play had been acted before, and very much disliked, whereupon they had promised this Day to present another: But my new Acquaintance, who was the Composer of it thinking to keep up his Honour by retrieving the Disgrace, upon some Alterations, resolved once more to try its Fortune.

The Curtain being drawn, and the Audience in great Expectation, I, as a Friend, had Liberty to be on the Stage, when the first Scene beginning with a War, after a Flourish of Trumpets, my Friend advanced, compleatly Armed, Back, Breast, and Head, as a General, with a Truncheon in his Hand: And well it happened he was so well fortified, for the People no sooner perceived they were defeated of their Expectation, but with loud Clamours, not giving him leave to speak, they sent a Hail-storm of Cudgels, Brickbats, Stones, Stools, Benches, and whatever they could get, or tear up, at the poor General, with such Fury, that

had

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had he not made, as well as myself, who received part of the Blows in a hasty Retreat, upon the imprudent Advance made too near the Enemies Quarters, 'tis ten to one whether he had been brought off alive or not : And nothing could appease this popular Fury, which had tore down the House like a Whirlwind, had it lasted half an Hour longer, but a Restitution of their Money, and a Promise to so many of them as would enter their Names, to be admitted Gratis to Play, the next Evening, and so going home, I payed off my Lodging, and took leave of my Company, that I might be the better at leisure to stumble on some fortunate Adventure.

CH A P. XVII.

How he fell into the Company of two beautiful young Courtesans, who took him for a Mercer. How in Hopes of getting Silks of him, he was highly entertained at their Lodging, and in a pleasant Arbour enjoyed the fairest of them. What after happened on this adventurous Occasion.

I Had heard much of the great Number of Courtesans, kept here to supply the Lusts of those that could supply them with Money ; when having travelled a great part of the Morning, in viewing the Churches, Palaces of Princes, and Colleges ; grown weary, I sate me down on a Bench before a Mercer's Shop, when immediately up came

two of them (as I perceived by their covering their Faces with Hoods so transparent, that they could see and not be seen) and taking me to belong to the Shop, demanded whether we had any Silks of the newest Fashion, I told them No, but a Caravan was expected in a Day or two, and if they pleased to tell me where I might wait on them, I would bring Patterns of such as was very choice. This stumbled them a little, but after they had compared Notes together, they said they knew not the Name of the Street, as being New-comers, where they lived; but if I would go with them they could shew me. I knew this was a Wheedle, yet resolved to venture, for now I writ my self a Man, and thereupon stepping into the Shop to the 'Prentice, as if he had given him Charge of the Business, on the contrary, I only ask'd him for a sham Name, which he assured me he knew not, and so came out again to 'quire my Ladies to their Lodging.

Being at the Door, I would have taken my Leave, but they cried, *Nay Sir, but you shall walk in, and take a Glass of Wine, since you have taken this Trouble upon you.* For they now took me for no less than the Master, seeing me as I came along, bowing to some Noble-Men and Magistrates we met, as well as wealthy Citizens, and they in Civility returned saluted me; they shewed me into a very curious Chamber, hung with Tapestry, or

Wain

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Wainfcoat, gilded with Sashes, and hung with Variety of Pictures; at length we fate down at a Table, and drank plentifully as to my part, but they only seemingly as to any purpose, then came in a Basket of Sweet-Meats and Fruits, which being lightly tasted, one of them called for her Lute, which she had no sooner tuned, but in came skipping a little Spaniel and a Monkey, dressed in Dancer's Habit, and about it they went so nimbly, and exact in their Steps and Turnings that I had seen but few Dancing-Masters who could out-do them.

By this time the Maid came in, and as I suppose purposely, whispering the other, she withdrew, and left me with the other, who after some other Discourse, began to talk very amorously, and understanding I was a Batchelor, refrained not to proffer her self as my School-Mistress, to teach me, as she said, a soft Love-Lesson, I was very willing to learn, but feared I should pay too dear for it; I knew she expected as much work as would make her a Gown at least, and how to come by it I know not. At last, by her Perswasions, I consented to be her faithful Servant, and ruled by her in every Way. When being a little Hot-headed, that I might not seem to be less than I had proposed my self, I in a Bravado drew out most of the Money I had got at the Ghost Scuffle; this new Allurement sweetned her Consent, and so to pass away the time, we walked

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ed together down a Back-Stairs into a very fair Garden, furnished and curiously set out with the most delicate Trees and Flowers that *Italy* afforded, and therein one of *Venus's* Bowers, a curious Umbrage consecrated to Love, I enjoyed the delicate Beauty of my charming Nymph, which I repeated with such Vigour, that she seem'd mightily pleas'd with my Performance ; but as I thought before, the Burthen of the Song was Hopes of Gain.

After this, she gave me her delicate white Hand, and led me into a Ban-queting-House where we were saluted with melodious Music, and having been entertained with a pleasant manner of Delights on Free-cost, I took my Leave, promising to send my rich Presents. Upon this, away I trudged to the Merchant, and told him that a great Lady (whose Name I had learned, and who had a House near the Apartment of these Courtesans) had sent me to desire him to let his Merchant carry her some of the richest Silks his Shop afforded, to which he consented, as knowing her, and to the Youth gave them the Charge, which was but newly come to him, and therefore the easier to be imposed on. I lead him through as many By streets as I could, to lose his Way, and at last fixing my Eyes on a House that had a Through-fair in I went desiring him at the Door to deliver his Cargo, that I might shew it to the Lady, but instead of doing that, I made

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Excuse to the People, after I had asked for
ou strange Name, and they had told me no
wer such Person lodged there, that I found my
f Velf mistaken, and desiring to go through
rate the House into the Back-street, I left my
auri young Merchant in the Lurch, to return to
eate his Master, after a long time having expect-
ghtil d my Return, with a lamentable Story of
as harpers. Having thus gotten what I aim-
Som d at, away I went to my Mistresses, who
received me very kindly, and there I revel-
whi ed some Days; but upon a thorough Search
Hou made throughout the City in all suspected
s M Houses, our Quarters were beat up about
th a Midnight: I happened upon the Alarm to
ok m eep out and spy the Officers, and fearing
fene the Consequence, put on my Cloaths, went
rcer own, and stood up close behind the Door,
who fter I had opened it; so that when they
Hou ushed in, out I slipt: But upon Search the
esfan ilks being found in the House, the two
is M charming Venus's, notwithstanding all the
s Sho Excuses they made, were hurried to Prison;
know and soon after, as I heard, had Scarlet La-
nem es fixed on their tender white Backs by the
o his ictor or publick Whipper of the City, and
fed o rced over and above to pay a very dear
ets a ate for their supposed Eleemosinary Finery.

C H A P. XVIII.

How he robbed the Offering-Box under the Virgin Mary's Image, and being discovered, by what Trick he escaped. His Roguery declared a Miracle by the Cardinal, who before was about to condemn him to the Flames, and he carried in Proceſſion: How he put a Trick upon a Priest for his Silver Crucifix, and left Rome.

THE Fear of Discovery upon this Prank made me skulk about in the most private Corners, 'till finding a Ship in the Tiber of my own Country, and bound thither, so ingratiated my self with the Master, that he suffered me to embark for a Passage, yet it was some time e'er he failed. In the mean while I ventured in Search of Adventures, and perceiving the Door of the Lateran Church open, in I went, and found the People at high Mass; every one as they entered casting Money into a Box that stood under the Image of the Virgin Mary, which made me itch to be fingering it: When taking my Opportunity with an old crooked Nail, I soon picked the Lock, and crammed as much of the Treasure as I could into my Pockets; but doing it over-hastily, and dropping some Pieces, they made such a glingling on the Marble Pavement, that as if Luck would have it, I was discovered, seized and dragged before Cardinal Cibo; who examining Witnesses as to the Fact, finding me plain, exclaimed against me by the Titles of

Rogue

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Rogue, Rascal, Sacrilegious Villain, and Heretick, and was just about condemning me to the Flames: When falling on my Knees, with up-lifted Hands, and Tears in my Eyes, I begged his Eminency to hear me; which after much storming he granted, and Silence being made, in a piteous Tone told him, *That being a vile wicked Wretch, and brought up a Hugonet, coming to this City in great Distress and Poverty, had made my Prayers before the Image of the Blessed Virgin to relieve me in my hard Necessity, and in Consideration of that, I would turn Roman Catholic, and ever be her Votary; when all on a sudden, the Box under her Image flew open, and she pointed with her Finger to the Treasure, making a dumb Shew with nodding her Head for me to supply myself out of it, which I had thankfully done, with a Resolve to keep my Vow.*

This being heard with much Patience and Attention, I perceived the furious Cardinal to lessen his Anger by Degrees; when all on a sudden, lifting up his Hands and Eyes, he cried out, *A Miracle! A Miracle!* which all the rest gabled out aloud, and concluded that none might more properly dispose of that Treasure than the Virgin to whom it was offered: Whereupon I was carried back to the Church in solemn Procession, and round it on on Mens Shoulders in Triumph, whilst *Ave Maria* was sung by the Priests, and I placed before the High Altar, being afterward dismissed with great

Ap.

Applause. Since which, I have considered most of the Miracles of that Church have their Rise from such Fallacies.

This Success and Escape emboldened me to greater : For one Day going into St. Peter's Church I perceived the Priest put a Silver Crucifix of great Value into a Sepulchre, as the Ceremony is, upon the Resurrection ; and while they were going round in their Devotion, I, by the Art of Hocus Pocus, conveyed it into my Breeches and shuffled among the Croud : So that when he came back to it, crying, Non est hic sed surrexit. ' He is not here, but is risen' he found it so indeed ; for after much fumbling he perceived his Graven God was gone : And made as much haste to get away for fear of Search. So getting on Board the Ship, ready to sail, I bid a lasting Farewel to Rome.

My Store recruited by these lucky Hits,
'To France I steer'd to re-employ my Wits.

C H A P. XIX.

How being Embark'd, a counterfeit Hermit told him the Story of a pleasant Trick he put upon the Pope with St. Peter's Beard : And coming back to France, he hung two Bastards in a Basket, about the Neck of the French King's Statue, for which a poor Fryar was hanged by Mistake, &c.

ON Board our Ship, I found among others, a kind of counterfeit Hermit or Pilgrim, who had taken that Garb, the better

etter to shroud his Rogueries, as he told
 ne many others did ; and among other Sto-
 ies, he told me of the Trick he had put
 upon Pope Innocent XI. viz. That coming from
 Rome, and pretending he came from visiting the
 holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, and all the other
 Places usually visited there by Pilgrims, he desi-
 red to be admitted to the Pope's Presence, as he
 I, said, for his Benediction or Blessing but more
 to maily in Hopes of getting Money out of him,
 o the which he usually gave Pilgrims at their Return
 from that holy Place but was told by the Cardi-
 nial, that he could not be admitted, unless he
 bling brought some Relicks. He told him he had some
 And at his Hermitage. And so taking leave, after
 of rambling about the City, heard an old fat Hostess
 dy had been lately hanged for poysoning one of her
 Guests, and that she was delivered to the Sur-
 geons to be Anatomized. This put a strange
 Whim in his Head, which was to get the Skinny
 Circle of her Merkin Hair ; and all which, one
 of the Surgeons Men for half a Ducat helped
 him to. This he dry'd and combed out, and so
 returned to the Cardinal, telling him he had
 brought St. Peter's Beard, which he bought at a
 great Price of the Fathers of the Sepulchre.
 The Cardinal admired at this, and looking ear-
 nestly on it, clapt it on his Muzzle, saying, if
 it was true, it were a Jewel worth a Kingdom,
 and immediately introduced him to his Holiness,
 who was in as much wonder, strictly examining
 the Truth of it, saying, They had his Skull al-
 ready, but never heard his Beard was preserved.
 But

But he gave them such plausible Reasons as to the Fire of the Truth of it, that he gained Credit: And the trouble Pope putting it to his Mouth, as the Cardinals her father had done, and in a manner worshipping it, de- foolishly manding why there was so much Hair on the one herself side, and so little on the other. O, said our Lord I counterfeit Pilgrim, Your Holiness well know at Pav St. Peter was a Jew by Birth, and used much to Bein play on the Jews Harp, so that by often rubbing of solve and twanging with his Finger he rubb'd off the Family Hair on the right side of his Face. House-

This gaining Credit, it was set up in the Record found in a repository of Rarities, in a Chrystal Shrine, to be Prefered adored by superstitious Votaries, and a hundred self by Duckats were ordered our Pilgrim; who feared Ladies ing the Cheat should come to light, had now leapt in the City. Many other Stories we had by the Gallan Way, which lasted to Marseilles; where land their ing, I was overjoyed to be once more in my own conceiv Country after so many Perils and Dangers, but solving in my Travels found it every where very much side wasted and impoverished, a great Number of that w People being reduced to the last Extremity by a w Life, by hard Taxes, Oppressions, and other whom Grievances. However, on I trudged through tied many desolate Places, the deserted Seats of the set up Hugonets, or Protestants, who by violent Persuade Lov cution were driven out, or fled almost out of the Natur That Country. Coming to my Father's House, I found This he was killed in the Wars about half a Year be Guard fore in Flanders, whose Death my Mother, poor Order, Soul, had taken so grievously, that she died, Fir some say, of Grief, and as others, of a certain

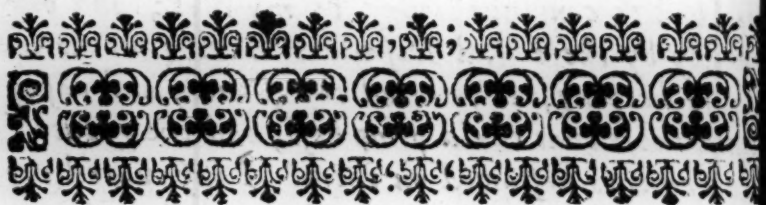
to the Fire that burnt too hot inwardly. But what troubled me most, my dear Lady having turned her fumbling Lord into the other World, had foolishly left the Pleasures of Life, and buried herself alive in a Nunnery, upon Notice, the Lord I travelled with, was murdered in an Inn known at Pavia.

Being now a free Denison of all the World, I resolved to continue living by my Wit; and our Family by these sad Disasters having broke up House-keeping, I haunted the Court, and easily found those that could pimp best, had the greatest Preferments bestowed on them. I insinuated myself by that Means into the Favour of the Court Ladies, as knowing how my Mother had prospered in that Trade. I sometimes helpt them to the Gallants, or in the Dusk of the Evening layed their By-blows at such Noble Mens Door as I conceived they most properly belonged to; and resolving on a Frolick one Evening, looking on every side for fear of Discovery, two thumping Boys that were brought me, neatly placed in a Basket, by a waiting Woman from a young Lady, with whom I had seen the great Lewis very familiar, tied it about the Neck of his famous Statue, set up in Honour of that Monarch, by Monsieur (Le Louis) with this Distich.

Nature, Law, Reason, all have plainly shown,
That every Father ought to keep his own.

This being found upon the going about of the Guards, great Enquiry was made, by the King's Order, after him that had presumed so great an Affront;

Affront; and a Fryer of the Carmelite Order having preached a little before upon the Vices of the Court, and glanced much in his Discourse upon this Monarch, he was suspected to be the Author or Contriver of it, and so was put to the Rack, who in his Tortures confessed what he had never done, and was fairly hanged for my Roguery.



The Continuation of his Rogueries not before Published.

CHAP. XX.

How he out-witted Father La-Chees the French King's Confessor of much Money, by pretending to the Philosopher's Stone, robb'd him, and left France. How he was robb'd himself, by the Stratagem of a Woman, and by what Device he out-witted a Traveller to recreate himself.

HAVING still an arduous Inclination to get me a Name in the World, by many witty Rogueries, equal to him who fired the magnificent Temple of *Diana* at *Ephesus*, merely for Mischiefs sake, that his Villany might be remembered, and handed down

down by History to all Posterity, I continued to haunt the Court and Places adjacent, and when it removed, I was sure to make one amongst the rest, watching all Opportunities to put such Projects in Practice, as might turn to my Advantage, or at least, to the Damage and Loss of some other, that I might keep my Hand in ure, and tickle my Fancy, that by my Projects I could impose upon, and circumvent the cautelous and ingenious, as well as the over-credulous and ignorant, and to this End, I racked Invention, and cudgel'd my Brains to set new Sprindges that might surely take the Foxes or Woodcocks in their Noozes.

I had often heard, that Father La-Chees, the Jesuit, Confessor to the French King, whose Politicks had rendered him Eminent, was withal very covetous, and still craving tho' exceeding rich, and therefore it came into my Noddle, to venture a bold Stroke, that I might unhoard some of the Gold he so much doated on. In order to this, I put myself into a Scholar's Garb, with some of the little Money I had left, and waited a fit Opportunity to address my self to this Miser, which was not long e're I found a fit One, for seeing him alone in the Piazza's of the Fauxburgh, musing and very studious, as I suppose, some new Piece of Policy, that he might propose it to our great Monarch; I took so many Turns, and fixed my Eyes so often on him, that he began more heedfully to observe me, and calling me to him, demanded who I was, and what I waited for. May it please

your Reverence, said I, I am a poor Schollar that have been travelling many strange Lands to gain Experiment in Sciences, that may turn to the Good of all France, if I might be under your Patronage for Encouragement. And what may that be (replied he very much pleased) if it be advantageous to my Country, I assure you no fitting Encouragement shall be wanting. Then assuming more Boldness, I told him I had spent most of my Study in Alchemy, or the Transmutation of Metals, and at Rome and Venice had profited so much from Great Men, learned in that Science, whom I named, that I could transmute several Metals into Gold, with a Philosophical Powder I could speedily make. He appeared to brighten with Joy at this, and told me such a thing would be very grateful indeed to my Country, and particularly to the King who as his Affairs went stood much in need of so rare an Invention, but that he must see Experiment made before he could credit it, or recommend me where I should not fail of Advancement. And so in brief, conducted me to his House, and furnished me with Money, to purchase and build such Materials as I told him were requisite in this precious Operation, charging me to keep it as a Secret from every Body but ourselves, 'till he thought fit to communicate it. I promis'd to be obedient, and when I had fixed my Utensils, and melted some base Minerals, which he viewed as I put them into the Crucible, I stirred them with a hollow Stick, into which I had conveyed some Sprigs of pure Gold, as black Lead is in a Pencil, which burning, as I stirr'd the

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Metal flaming, the Gold unperceiv'd of him,
Sunk in and melted likewise. So that when the
excessive Fire had consumed or evaporated the
Lead, Tin and Brass, with the Powder I threw in
for a shew, the Gold remained pure to the Quan-
tity of an Ounce and a half. This he caused to
be essayed, and finding what it really was, pure
Gold, made him so blinded with Covetousness,
that after several other Experiments producing
the like Effect, he totally gave himself over to
believe whatever I said or did, and in the Hopes
he had of the Promises I made him to instruct
him how to do it himself, that the Fame of such
a Project might redound to him, as the Inventer
of it; he supplied me with what Money I asked
for, and I became so dear to him, that he shewed
me his Treasure, and many rich Jewels that had
been presented him for Court Favours, in which I
resolved to be his Partner; for when I had often
produced the Gold in the Manner I had mention-
ed, and he began to press me to discover the Se-
cret, delaying him for a few Days, and conclud-
ing if I stay'd much longer my Trick must be dis-
covered, I took my Opportunity to steal into his
Chamber, where he usually slept after Dinner,
and finding him sleeping with his Mouth open I
gagg'd and bound him, took his Keys, and un-
hoarding as much of the Treasure, as I could carry
out unsuspected, I bid him adieu for ever, leav-
ing these Lines as a Farewel.

Know I have shew'd your Reverence a Trick
For Gold, by putting Gold into a Stick,

Which melting, you as for true Gold did own,
 And thus Philosophers do with their Stone:
 'Tis all a Juggle, the Covetous to deceive,
 And drain their Coin, as I do taking Leave.

After this Exploit, knowing France would be too hot to hold me, and that Tortures and Death would be my Portion, if I was apprehended, purchasing a Horse and a different Habit, I rid Night and Day, 'till I got into Flanders, resolved to pass into Holland, where I thought I might safely sell my Jewels, when my Coin should come to a low Ebb; but as Roguery often meets with suitable Returns, so here I was disappointed, for after I had well refreshed my self, and set forward again, riding by part of the great Forrest of Ardena, I saw a Woman walking before me, limping as she went, and could hear her make a kind of Moan, but coming up with her, and perceiving she was very handsome, I asked her the Cause of her being on the Road in that Condition, so far from any Town. When forcing some Tears to flow, she told me a long Story how her House (that stood some Miles distant on the Way I came, describing one I had seen) had been rifled by a Party of Soldiers belonging to Namure, who had grievously wounded her Husband and Servants, that used their Endeavours to oppose it, and killed or carried away all her Horses to hinder Pursuit, but that she had taken Courage to follow them, and hoped the Governour would punish them, and make her some some Reparation. Moved to Compassion by this plausible Story, her Tears, and a Design

I had

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I had so enjoy such a Booty if I might ingratiate my self into her Favour, by some Services I might do her in her Distress, I kindly invited her to get up behind me, and I would carry her to the Place she mention'd, that was but a few Miles distant, at first she coyly refused it, but my civil Importunity in an unlucky Moment prevailed, for long she had not rid, enlarging on the former Discourse, e're turning a Nook of the Forrest, she very nimbly cast a Cord about my Neck, and drew the Nooz so hard, that alighting, she pulled me to the Ground half strangled, giving the signal Cry that brought two Fellows out of the Thicket, who drag'd me into the Forrest, in spite of the Resistance I was able to make, she leading my Horse after them; here without many Words, they rissled and bound me, and mounting her behind one of them on my Horse, away they rid, and the other as it were, vanished into the thickest of the Forrest, when I saw him no more, and here I lay till the next Morning, when by the help of my Teeth and much struggling, I got loose, fretting and banning my Stars for being thus beaten at my own Weapons, for want of a better Caution, resolving however to repair my Loss as well as I might on others, so getting into the Road I travel'd a while, till I saw a Man well mounted coming after me, when immediately a lucky Whim came into my Pate once more to mount my self, when lying down on a little rising Bank as he approach'd, I lifted up my Hands as in Admiration, which he seeing, stop'd,

and ask'd me the cause of my Astonishment. Sir, (said I) I hear the sweetest Musick in the Earth, that the like Harmony I never heard in all my World before. The Traveller could not but smile at this, taking me to be out of my Senses, till I urging it so constantly, and with a compos'd Countenance lifting up my Hands and Eyes towards Heaven, as still in Admiration, and then clapping my Ear again to the Ground as in an Extasie, he became so credulous as to alight, that his own Ear might judge of the truth or falsity of my Report, yet no sooner he kneell'd to listen, but I mounted his Horse, and rid away full speed, he in vain crying after me to stay, and running till he was quite out of Breath. I rid that Day 50 Miles by the byest Roads, lest the Horse should be known, and I stop'd to give an Account of the Owner; and then alighting at a forsaken Cottage, I open'd his Portmantua, and found forty Ducats, some Linen, wearing Cloaths and Papers.

This after a little Rest, and letting my Horse graze and cool, made me set forward to a little Village, where concluding the danger of Pursuit over, I lodg'd the remainder of that Night.

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C H A P.

C H A P. XXI.

How, coming into an Inn, he found there a Company of stroling Gipsies and Fortune-tellers, pretending to be Conjurers, with the Comical Trick he put upon them, which spoil'd their Merry-making. How he went to Holland, and the Description he gives of the Country, &c.

HAVING taken up with homely Fare, and refresh'd my weary Limbs with a short Repose, no sooner the Sun-beams guilded the tops of the Hills, but up I started, and paying a Ducate for what was not worth three Stivers, I took leave of my unconcionable Host, and follow'd the Road, as knowing by the course of the Country, I could not be much out of my Way, especially as a Rambler who had the World before him to shift in. I Travell'd till the heat of the Day, it being Summer-time, when coming to a little Inn on the Road, where I heard ere I enter'd, a kind of rude Singing to a Haut-boy and Violin, and found there a parcel of stroaling Gipsies, or such as Ramble the Country, pretending to tell Fortunes, and be as familiar with the Devil as a Lapland Witch, they were as merry as Crickets, and Drank about Lustily, telling incredible Stories to some Ignorant People, who were come to this General Rendezvous from several adjacent Villages, with their

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Free-will Offerings, to know what wonderful Things the Stars design them, with these I resolv'd to play a Frolick, the better to divert my Melancholly, after the Loss I had sustain'd; the House was very low, and in the Room where they were, a Chimney with a large Funnel, where they us'd to hang Bacon. I communicated my Design to the Ostler, who as I desir'd him for a promis'd Reward, dress'd up a great Dog in a Cow-hide he had in the Stable, placing the Horns just on his Forehead, when in the heighth of their Jollitry and Fortune-telling, by the help of a Ladder and a Rope, we let him hastily down the Chimney, into the Chamber where they were Assembled, who Howling as he Descended, and Rushing among them in that Frightful Figure, turn'd all into Hurry and Confusion, the Musick silenc'd, the Table overthrown, the Drink spilt, the People skreeking and crowding down Stairs, every one striving to be Foremost, lest the Devil, as they suppos'd this to be, should take the hindmost, their Heels flew up, the Womens Coats over their Heads, and the Men's Noses, some of them in their Breeches, lying higgledy piggledy, Heads and Tails, whilst their Back-strings loosning, gave full Flushes, and put them into a very unsavory Condition; the Pipe and the Fiddle were trod to Pieces, and the suppos'd Demon making his Way over all, got into the Stable, where the

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Ostler hasting after, uncas'd him, so that when they came a little to themselves, and see no more of him, they concluded he had vanish'd into the Air.

This Frollick spoil'd both their Merri-ment and Fortene-telling for this Time, and some of them, as Lewd as they were, vow'd to Reform their Manners, and follow this wilked Practise no more, least Demigorgon, who now had only Scar'd them, should at another time Horse them on his fiery Back, and carry them to his Suttty Region : As for their Client they hasted away as fast as they could Trudge, filling the Country with a dreadful Rumour of Spirits and Apparitions ; only the Ostler and I, who were conscious of the Matter, laugh'd in our Sieeves, to find how easily we had Deceiv'd the Deceivers, and put them into a stinking Fright. I spent one Part of a Ducat, and gave him the other, and so departed, seeming as well as the Rest to Wonder at what had so strangely happen'd.

By Evening I was got on the Confines of *Holland*, where I met with so many Ditches and Marshy Grounds, as it were one on the Neck of another, that I found it very difficult Travelling. Woods I could see none, only a few Willow Trees scatter'd here and there, which made me Wonder how those People came by such vast quantities of Timber, to out-do almost all other Nations in Shipping ; and tho' Corn Fields are rare to

be met with, they abound in Grain, not only to Serve themselves, but Store other Provinces with it. Cattle they have of a Large size in Plenty, they grow Fat in their Salt Marshes, and their Milk Produces abundance of Butter and Cheefe. To be brief, the Ocean and Rivers Store them with incredible quantity of Fish, and their Traffick is as the Trading Part of the World, which brings in a Plenty of all Things.

But not to insist upon these Matters, let it Suffice, that I tell you, that the People are Frugal and Industrious, insomuch that there is not a Beggar to be seen in the Country, and so Vigilant, that they are not easily to be Deceiv'd, or Over-reach'd in any kind. This last Consideration put me to my Shifts how I should carry my Affairs amongst them; however, not to be Discourag'd, I bethought my self of Ways agreeable enough to my Temper; for, finding after I had visited *Leyden*, and several other Places, that the Women were many of them Pleasant and very Facetious, Coming, and much Loving to Strangers, I concluded to Cast my Anchor in that Port, 'till I could better my Haven; and when my store fail'd me, their Bounty frequently Recruited for some signal Services which they kindly Accepted and Relished very Gratefully, till such Time as a Strict Search was made after such as had no Visible Means or Employment to Live on, to prevent the like, or such indirect Ways,

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as might Damage the Publick. Among Others, being at *Amsterdam*, I was called in Question before some of the Burghers, which put me a little to my Trumps, yet setting a Face upon it, not to be taken for so Errant a Rogue, as indeed I was, knowing few Crimes are resented so Heinous amongst them, as Thievery, where it is Detected, or so much as Suspected; I bluntly told them I was by Profession a Kildermaker, or a kind Assistant to Fumbling Husbands, whose Young Wives Long'd for Heirs, and that I got a Comfortable Livelyhood by my Diligence and Industry in that Way. This made them look one upon another for a Time, and after that some of them fell into a fit of Laughter 'till their Sides Aked: A Kildermaker, quoth a, cried One, whv Brother, this is a New Trade. Ay, ay, says another that sat Sneering in a Corner, if this Trade get once a Head, it will be high Time you Please your Wife better than you have, or she may chance to Hire a Kildermaker to help you out at a dead Lift. Pray Neighbour, replied the other somewhat Surlily, spare your Advice, and look to your own Copyhold, I am too well assured of mine, that I shall have any Tenant in Tale to Improve it.

Whilst they thus Bantered, I was in some Suspence what would be the Issue; but laying their Heads together, and Whispering a while, they Demanded if any Person could Charge

Charge me with any Crime Obnoxious to the Laws, (for this it seems, they look on as a Trifling Matter, not meriting any, or that I only Jested with them) and no Body Appearing to Accuse me, I was Dismissed by the Publick Suffrages. This but Emboldned me the more, and the Story they told of me, when come to their Respective Homes, served but as an Advertisement to encrease my Profession, by setting their Wives a Longing for Children.

C H A P. XXII.

*How he proceeds in his Profession of Kildermaking
How he Encounters with a Lady unknown to
him who Replenished his Pockets for the Fa-
vour he did her. Also a Penurious Burgher's
Wife, and of the Grievous Misfortune that
befell him in this last Adventure. How he
was in some Measure Revenged, and left the
Country.*

OUT of my Profits, I had by this time put my self into a very genteel Garb and as one Day I was traversing the Streets and gazing about me, the Window of a Tavern opened, and a very fine Woman looking out, whilst I turned my Head that Way she made a Congy and bowed her Head which I took for a sign she had a desire to speak with me: I made no delay to enter

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the House, and go up Stairs, where she was ready to meet me at the Door, and welcome me in, when looking wishfully on me, she feigned her self to be mistaken in the Man, and began to make Excuses; whereupon I would have retired, but she gently pulling me back with an Amorous Leer, said, nay, since I have given you this trouble, and the Gentleman I expected has pass'd the Hour he appointed, pray stay and take part of a Collation, for 'tis pitty good Victuals should be spoil'd for want of Company to Eat it: Upon this she caus'd me to sit down, and filling out a Glas of Wine drank to me, I as kindly pledg'd her, and we talk'd of divers Matters, till up came one of the stateliest Dishes, of several kinds of Fish, that I had seen, being enough to serve a Dozen Dutchmen, who are none of the least Eaters, upon this I began to enquire where were the rest of the Company that were to participate of this Banquet. She told me, seeing they came not at their time, she would not stay, but entreated me to fall too with a hearty Welcome. I did so, and we drank lustily, but Eat not the tenth part of what was before us, so that the People of the a Ta House, and their Servants, far'd the better look for it.

Way The Table being drawn, she entreated me yet to stay, and ask'd me many Questions; to which I answer'd so promptly, that she was mainly taken with my Conversation: Then

Then she sung very Melodiously, but very low, as not to be heard by those in other Rooms, and ply'd me so with Bumpers of Hock and Rhenish, that that and her Singing Lull'd me a Sleep, so that I Wak'd not till it was Dark. I found her still in the same Place; and, to my no small Wonder, a Curious Bed in the Room, not there before, and as I after perceived, had been let down through a Trap-door in the Ceiling, by Cords and Pulleys, for this it seems was *Venus's Private Nursery Chamber*. By this I was further Confirm'd in what she aim'd at, and could not be so Uncivil as not to Gratify her Desires in so Pleasing a Way, that she prevail'd with me to Sleep in her Arms for that Night: but Waking in the Morning I miss'd her, which did not a little Startle me, for I Concluded her then to be one of the Long-Cellar Ladies, who had put the High Game upon me, had left me a Large Reckoning to Pay; but fumbling in my Breeches, I perceiv'd it far otherwise, I found all my one Money Safe, and a Hundred Pistoles she left me in a Silver Wire Purse, when thanking my good Stars I rose calling the Landlord, and Demanding what was to Pay, he told me not a Stiver, but that there was also a Breakfast Provided for me, which was likewise Paid for. I then enquir'd for the Gentlewoman, but whether they knew her not, or Dissembl'd their Knowledge of her, certain it is, from thence

for ward

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forward I saw her no more, nor could get any Intelligence who this charming and liberal *Venus* might be ; but only conjur'd she wanted an Heir to an Estate, which otherwise, upon her fumbling Husband's Decease, might have parted from her to his Relations. Flush'd by this lucky Adventure, I liv'd as merry as a Fox that has stor'd his Hole with the Spoils of a Hen roost ; but ill-got Treasure is always wasting like Snow in a Thaw, or as the *Dutchmen* learnedly have it, *Like Butter stopping the Crannies of a hot Oven*. Having revell'd away the greatest part of it in expensive Ordinaries, I betook me to my old Parade for a Recruit, and whilst I was passing along, looking out as sharp as a hungry Hawk for a Prey, I heard one say, *Look, look Wife, yonder goes the Kilderbaker I told you of*. This made me quickly turn to that Point of the Compass from whence such a Wind blew, and presently I spy'd in the Door of a Shop richly furnish'd, a greasie doubleted old Blade, eating Raw pickl'd Herring on a great Lunchion of brown Bread, andd eating it as heartily as all it squeez'd out at both Corners of his Mouth, as if it had been the best Venison Pastry in *Christendom*. I saw likewise a plump young Woman standing at his Elbow, and gazing at me, as I suppos'd, to mark the more curiously for a black Sheep, she had a Month's Mind to purchase for her Pleasure. I thought I had seen the Man before, and there-

therefore without taking any further Notice at that Time, I kept my Pace, concluding my Business would lie more opportunely that way at a more convenient Season, and so it happen'd, for upon my Return, no sooner had I pass'd the Door, but I perceiv'd a Female at my Heels, which I soon supposed (nor was I mistaken) was sent on Cupid's Errant: She clap'd a Note into my Hand which I read, and promis'd to keep my Time at the Place it directed. I met my Frow indeed punctual to her Appointment, but prov'd of a very covetous Temper, different from the former. However, for some time I held my Hand, and the rest when my Work came to see it self (I sticking at nothing) we struck a Bargain, so we kindly met and parted.

Time for the Residue of this dark Bargain being expir'd, and being satisfy'd I had perform'd my Part. After often travelling forward and backward before the House, to single out the Mother of my Babe, I saw her in the Shop without any Company, this concluded was my Time to speak for myself, and with an humble Cringe addressing my self to her, and telling her I wanted the Remainder of my Money; she started back and putting on an angry Frown, gave me Language in Terms I little expected. The Dispute between us growing a little warm, out pop'd the Husband, like a Negro out of an Indico Bag, and furiously demanded what I wanted with his Wife. I would have ex-

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Justice said it, and departed, but she not so satisfied, told him how I had scandaliz'd her chastity, and had charg'd her with what she was altogether innocent of, making many protestations she never set Eyes on me before, urging him vehemently to revenge the affront done to himself and her. This made me grow chollerick, and Words arising, he called in several Neighbours, who fell upon me with severe Buffetings, not knowing why or wherefore, and without further Consideration drag'd me before a Magistrate, who hearing their slender Complaints, before I could reply, commanded me to the Raspehouse, as a loose, loitering and dangerous fellow; there I was put to hard Labour in chopping Logwood, and other Drudgeries, that I concluded I had brought my Hogs to the fine Market, and wish'd my self again in the Thieves Den, out of which I had escap'd with so much Peril and Hazard. Not being allow'd to work, I fainted under it, but that avail'd me not, for they imputing it to a stubborn Laziness, put me to the Cestern for a greater Punishment, which was to be chain'd down to the bottom of it by one Foot when it was dry, and several Cocks of Water turn'd into it, I was to pump it out for my life, for the top of it being much higher than my Head, if the Water had prevail'd, I must inevitably have been drowned without Pity or Relief from my cruel Goalers, and so have ended all my Rogueries by an

Inundation. Being sensible of this, and that my Courage was about to be cool'd, I labour'd like a Turk in a Mill, redoubling my Strength, for it was to continue but a Hour. However the Water prevail'd so much, that all my pumping had been in vain, if luckily for me News had not been brought. I must speedily come before the Burghers in their Sessions, who had been interceded with for the Remission of this Punishment, and were willing to hear and determine my Cause of Accusation. This did not a little revive my fading Spirits, for the Cocks being stopp'd, and the Water let out by pulling down a Plug at the bottom, I was speedily taken thence, dress'd, and, in a fainting Condition, carry'd before them, who notwithstanding for the most part knew me since the last time I had been there, I fix'd my Eyes on my Enemy, who stood up to accuse me, and begging leave to be heard, after he had said all he could, I plainly told them the naked Truth of the whole Matter. Some laughed, others rubbed their Foreheads, and laying their Heads together, the Woman was sent for, who for a time stiffly deny'd any Familiarity with me, or any other Man in the World besides her dear Husband. But I producing her Note, and her Hand not to be deny'd, with many other concurring Circumstances, she quail'd in the End, and falling at the Feet of her Dotard humbly crav'd Pardon, vowing never to offend

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more in the like Premises, but he turn'd from
er in a surly manner, crying out, *What must
be a Hedge-Sparrow to hatch a Cuckow's Egg,
by my Doublet, not I.* However by many
persuasions they were made Friends, but
that made the greatest Grumbling in his
bizzard, was, that they order'd me ten Du-
ats, the Remainder of my Bargain, saying,
since it was a Bargain it must be kept; and see-
ing I had no other Profession, tho' a bad one, I
ought to live by my Industry that way, to prevent
falling into worse Practices, but withal to hasten
out of the Country, and go a Kildermaking else-
where; for if I was seen in it after ten Days, I
should be publickly whipt as often as I wound diso-
bedient to these Orders. This you may think
was not very pleasing to one of my Temper:
However pocketing my Coin, and promising
obedience, I departed, meditating Revenge
on him that had used me so scurvily, of which
seldom failed, where it lay within the
reach of my Power or Policy, which was not
long wanting in some Measure.

For I had no sooner packed up my Awls to leave a Place
that threatned me with much Misery and Disgrace, but I
went and purchased a Seaman's cast Habit, stiff with Tar
and Pitch, smeared my Face and Hands, and put on false
whiskers on my upper Lip, and so equipt as the Tarpaw-
ns usually go there. Knowing this Burger to be a rich
armudgeon, upon the Enquiry I made, and that he of-
ten walked on the Keys with Bags of Dollars in his Poc-
ket to strike for Bargains: I resolved, by a Stratagem, to
be Master of them, before I bid adieu to the Country.
In order to this, I went amongst the Sailors, who were
filled with bodily Enemies, that instead of Bosom Friends,
were

were too often their Backbiters, and pretended I was employed by an Apothecary, to get Store of Lice for a little Drink, pretending they were for the Cure of the Jaundice but indeed to fetch this Dutchman's Hands out of his Pockets, where he usually carried them (as most of them do) that I might the easier come at my Prey, I put them into Quills, and waited some time his coming abroad; then following him at his Heels, I blew the Vermin upon him, which stuck and crawled about in great Numbers; some I put upon my self, and starting, began to cry out, What a wonderful thing is this, it certainly rains Lice upon me; which he hearing turned back, and seeing me brush them from my self, found he was almost covered with them, marching abreast in Rank and File! This brought out his Hands to prevent their scaling his Collar; presently I run to his Assistance, and was very officious in helping him to rid him of this *Egyptian* Plague; and he not knowing me again, by reason of my Disguise, took it so kindly that I had an Opportunity to strip him out of his two Bags of Money, putting in their places two Bags of small Potsheards I had provided, that he should not suddenly miss them, either by the Weight or feeling; for he considered his Hands would soon be in again, either as the Custom is, or to guard his Mammon; and when I had done what I intended, away slipped Peelgarlick, under pretence of earnest Business, though not without Thanks from him for the Service he supposed I had done him. And having my other Cargo ready in a Boat, I passed the River, and landing on the other side hastened back to Flanders.

C H A P. XXIII.

Having left Holland, on his way to Flanders he met a Soldier asleep on the Road in a Calash; how he robb'd him, and the comical Trick he played; with other Matters.

BEING out of Danger, I began seriously to consider that Roguery seldom goes long unpunished, as I had formerly experienced, yet it was so ingrafted in my Nature, and the tendency I had to unlucky Pranks made me see it difficult

difficult it was for me to reform, and take honest Courses : Besides, even the Genius of my Country leads too much another way, than to do as we would willingly be done by. Whilst I was thus ruminating the Matter, I saw the Calash coming on the Road a softly pace towards me; and being nearer, I perceived the Driver, who sat in it, whether by long Travel, or taking too large a Mornings Draught, I know not, was fast asleep ; I stopt the Horse, which was but one, and softly stepping up, rifled his Pockets, unfelt of him, of a Watch and 20 Pistoles, and so leaked from him as supposing that was all the Booty I could get at that time, unless I unstript him of his Cloaths, which I could not carry with me, without Suspension, in those open Countries ; so that contenting myself with what I had got, I was about to depart ; but when another Whim came into my Head, the Pistols were in a Cat-skin Purse, which I not caring to carry with me, for fear of a Discovery, I put the Money into my Pocket, and pulling down my Breeches, dinged into the Purse, and put it into his Pocket again ; and that I might have the pleasure to see what would be the Issue of it, if possible, I pulled the Pins out of the Axle-tree of the Wheels, and set the Horse a going, which he had not done above a hundred paces, but the Wheels flew off, and down came the Calash, which awakened my Don in a great start, whilst I lay peeping behind a Hedge, I could perceive by the Consternation he was in, when he got out of the Calash, he wondred how this should come to pass, and no doubt concluding some arch Knaves had put a Trick upon him, he began to feel if his Pockets were not rifled, hastily pulling out his Purse and thrusting his Hand into it, which suddenly he drew back and found them all beapt with *Pilgrims Salve* like Treacle dropt from the Ends of them. I could perceive he stormed awfully by his looking every way about him, and often stamping. Whereupon fearing Company might come up, and a Search be made, I skulked over the Fields, and struck into another Road, leaving him to look the Pins, and put on the Wheels of his Booby-hutch again.

After

After this Exploit, I went to *Brussels*, where the C is kept, and viewed that place, doing some petty Exp to keep up my Stock, but of no note worth mention living for the most part on Gaming and Rooking of *French Officers*, and *Spaniards*, of their Money, by putting false Dice on them : And now my Intention is to pass *Spain* with the first Opportunity, where you may be open to hear of more of my Pranks in a little time.

*And thus through many Dangers I have run,
Play'd requish Pranks, but yet I have not none :
Much more's behind, to which I still aspire,
Whilst for a true French Rogue Men me admire,
As Phaeton once, who set the World on Fire.*

F I N I S.

*Sarah Ware
Melton*

